Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-158 *17 August 1989*

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Cuba

Commentary on U.S. 'Air Assault' in Panama City

FL1600152800 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Commentary by Daniel Torres on "Hot Off the Press" section of "Revista de la Manana"]

[Text] What is happening in Panama, friends, is truly going too far. During the past few hours, U.S. Marines, supported by combat helicopters, made an air assault into the center of Panama City in view of the astonished people of Panama, the people of the capital. The marines landed on the roof of the U.S. Embassy, I repeat, in the center of Panama City, violating all types of statutes that apply to the Southern Command, which is the force that comprises these U.S. troops. For more than an hour, they conducted a, quote, exercise, end quote, entitled "Cold Duck."

No one is certain what the U.S. is trying to accomplish with these maneuvers which are an absolute act of provocation against the Panamanian people and which are truly wearing thin the patience of the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP].

I should mention that last week, close to 1,000 U.S. Marines completely surrounded Fort Amador, where one of the offices of General Manuel Antonio Noriega is located. There they also displayed all their weapons; they were armed to the teeth. When the FDP simply asked the leaders of the Southern Command to explain what this provocative and absolutely illegal maneuver was about, ten more U.S. military men, dressed as civilians and armed to the teeth, went to inform the other military members that the exercise should be brought to an end. To do this, they flooded the streets of Panama City with military vehicles, armored cars, and provoked another incident with the FDP. At one point they mutually aimed their weapons at each other.

These are the facts. Nevertheless, what strongly calls my attention—and I think it is very important because of the seriousness of these aggressive acts—is a statement recently made by U.S. President George Bush who said that he does not discard the possibility, and listen to this: The President of the United States does not discard the possibility of kidnapping Gen Noriega in the country of Panama itself.

That a president of a nation like the United States very cynically acknowledges during a press conference that there is a possibility of kidnapping the chief of an army of a country [words indistinct] is an exaggerated prepotency of the U.S. President. Considering these U.S. maneuvers—the fact that troops surrounded Fort Amador and appeared in the capital yesterday with helicopter gunships—one must ask if a plan already exists to kidnap Gen Noriega.

Today I spoke with two Panamanian journalists from Panama's national radio. They are absolutely convinced that these U.S. maneuvers are acts of intimidation and that the United States is waiting to see if Gen Noriega can be taken during one of these occasions and immediately sent to the United States, where he has been indicted by a Miami court on five charges, including international drug trafficking and a number of other violations.

Something else that Bush said yesterday—he was speaking to journalists at the White House in a tremendously aggressive tone —is that the United States considers the Panamanian solution to be inconceivable with the presence of Noriega. In other words, Bush said that Noriega first has to leave power so that the situation in Panama can return to normal. This fits perfectly with all the destabilizing maneuvers that the United States is conducting against Panama at a time when the OAS is acting as mediator to help establish a transition government and call elections.

Bush said that he felt it was not necessary to hold elections in Panama because there already is a winner; and to Bush, the winner is Mr Guillermo Endara who heads the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance. Bush no doubt speaks constantly over the telephone with Endara, as if he were president of Panama.

Things are happening in Panama that go beyond what is permissible. A few days ago, while journalist Nelson Nortario Castro was covering one of these provocative U.S. maneuvers, these same civilians [not further identified], armed to the teeth, burst onto the main streets of Panama City. A very important conversation was recorded by a camera that was hooked up for direct sound. A lieutenant of the FDP, who literally was holding by the neck a high-ranking member of the Southern Command Army, said in very clear Spanish that the Panamanians were losing their patience and that they would get them out of there. That is where the transmission ended because you can imagine what the rest of the sentence was. It was a very suggestive sentence and very graphic because that is the way the United States will leave Panama if it continues with this foolishness.

The situation could become radical at any time there. I think that these confrontations should be averted at any cost because an armed confrontation between the United States and the Panamanian people would result in an enormous amount of bloodshed.

Nevertheless the U.S. presence, the ambiguous U.S. foreign policy for Panama, has given rise to a tremendous nationalist feeling in Panama and above all, an anti-Yankee sentiment.

If a poll had been conducted 3 years ago among the Panamanian people on the presence of U.S. Marines in the canal zone, I think that the opinions would have been a little tainted; but now, the Panamanian people do not want a single U.S. soldier on Panamanian land.

The Torrijos-Carter agreements justifiably order the transfer of the canal into the sovereign and independent hands of the Panamanian people. Nevertheless, the United States is trying, at all costs, to prevent this from happening. President George Bush yesterday threatened no one less than FDP Chief Gen Noriega, who is a bulwark of the Torrijos movement.

Gen Noriega is undoubtedly the current leader of the Torrijos movement because, and this is my personal opinion, ideologically, this confrontation with the United States has made him assume an attitude of singular patriotism. I don't think that Noriega himself would have thought that his personality, his charisma, his position would be what it is now: a position of 100 percent nationalism. It is a position that has made him the leader par excellence of the Panamanian people at this time.

If the United States attempted to kidnap Gen Noriega, it would practically lead to a war between Panama and the United States because the people of Panama would not allow it.

Denial of Visas 'Humiliating' for Puerto Rico

FL1708021789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Julia Osendi commentary]

[Text] Since 1952 when Luis Munoz Marin became the first colonial governor of Puerto Rico, many and varied have been the shows of arrogance, demagoguery, and disrespectful policies on the part of the United States toward the Caribbean island. However, the last Yankee maneuver of blocking entry to Cuban sports reporters, who were supposed to cover the ninth Intercontinental Baseball Cup, goes beyond all expectations.

It is not a secret that Puerto Rico, with its free associated state [or commonwealth] status—which it has been forced to maintain for 37 years—does not have the freedom to determine who enters its territory. The Yankee State Department is the one with the authority to declare a person non grata whom it considers appropriate.

In this case, Cuban journalists appear to have been considered dangerous agents, who can introduce the virus of communism in Puerto Rico only because they come from Cuba. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the doors of beautiful Borinquen [Taino Indian name for Puerto Rico] are wide open for well-known international terrorist agents and Batista and Somoza followers.

This unusual position assumed by imperialists is even more humiliating for the people if we consider the political time period Puerto Rico is going through. The analysis of the Puerto Rico issue began today at the UN Special Decolonization Committee. The fundamental goal of the participants in the meeting is to demand that the United States fulfill its international duties which consist, basically, in the transfer of power so that the people can make a decision about their own future.

At the same time, a process is taking place on the island to make possible a plebiscite during the current 4-year term. This process was imposed by U.S. President George Bush with unconfessed purposes inasmuch as Bush is the first one to favor annexation.

The three most important parties: Popular Democratic Party led by Rafael Hernandez Colon, current administrator of the colony; New Progressive Party, headed by annexationist Carlos Romero Barcelo; and the Puerto Rican Pro-Independence Party, presided over by Ruben Berrios, have sent their views and proposals to the U.S. Congress so that it can analyze the future of the Caribbean people. It is a ray of hope in the middle of the humiliating situation. But the truth of the matter is that Puerto Rico has no control of its judiciary, executive, or legislative powers. The National Guard acts under the [words indistinct] that has bases on the island. Commerce and trade are directed from the north.

Paradoxically, only in sports can Puerto Rico be represented with its flag, colors, and national anthem. It is in sports that this insult takes place.

We are not in San Juan, Bayamon, or Caguas. Thus, we cannot feel up close the state of mind of the people who have been stripped of their citizens' rights. Morally, those with the blood of [Pedro] Albizu Campos and Lolita Lebron flowing through their veins, must be feeling very bad; those who descend from the ones who participated in the Jayuya uprising, which was cruely crushed by the Yankees' troops, are the same ones who will fill up the stadiums and root for the Cubans showing solidarity with their true brothers.

UN Secretary General on Confinement of Koevoet

FL1608170489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has informed the Government of Cuba about the confinement planned for 1,200 former members of the repressive military corps known as the Koevoet, a police unit in South Africa. Oscar Oramas, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, said that during the meeting requested by Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general told him that steps were being taken to isolate a large number of members of that repressive South African body.

The Koevoet is known for the cruel acts and violence it committed over a period of years against the civilian population in Namibia.

The UN secretary general and the Cuban diplomat also reviewed the current situation in that African territory and discussed the obstacles that remain for the normal application of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Over 130 Internationalists Return From Angola

FL1608165189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] More than 130 internationalist combatants have returned to the fatherland, proud of doing their duty. Indescribably happy, dressed in their campaign uniforms, they were welcomed back by Jaime Crombet, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], who greeted them on behalf of all the Cuban people.

Colonel (Alvaro Alzo Niera), member of this group, wears the Antonio Maceo Order on his chest and the medal for services rendered to the fatherland, as well as other awards. Internationalist Combatant Medals, first and second class; the Cuba-Angola Victory Medal, the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal; and awards for distinguished service in the Revolutionary Armed Forces; are among the honors exhibited by this new group of heroes returning to the heart of their people from the People's Republic of Angola.

The internationalists were also greeted at the airport by Homero Crabb, member of the PCC Central Committee and construction minister, and Brigade General Anibal Velaz Suarez.

Prosecutor's Office Inspects Restaurants

FL1708030089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] [Reporter Richard Clenton] The Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Havana City, together with the State Committee for Prices, is conducting a number of surprise inspections in some restaurants and cafeterias in the capital. Their main goal is to detect price violations.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] The comrade bartender was inspected while he served two double Havana Club old rum drinks and the two of them had insufficient amounts.

[Clenton] How do you measure the amounts?
[First speaker] With this test tube certified by the State Committee for Statistics. It is approved. It has no problem. The two drinks were lacking 5 milliliters each.

[Clenton] Each drink?
[First speaker] Each drink.

[Clenton] How many milliliters should each drink have?
[First speaker] Thirty-seven.

[Clenton] How many milliliters does a rum bottle have?
[Unidentified bartender] Well, 750 milliliters.

[Clenton] If you serve each drink 33 milliliters each, wouldn't there be some rum left in each rum bottle?
[Bartender] That could happen.

[Second unidentified speaker] We are checking the norms and prices in this unit.

[Clenton] What specific situation have you found here?
[Second speaker] We have found violation in the amounts of mortadella snacks. Although there is an apparent violation in the amount of juice, we consider there is a violation in its price. They are alleging they have problems with their glasses. They are authorized to approve the price in relation to the size of the glass. If there is a certain price for an 8-ounce glass and they have 6-ounce glasses, they should have adjusted the price to the 6-ounce glass and not serve 6 ounces and charge for 8. So, a price violation is implicit.

[Clenton] Let's see what happens in La Arcada cafeteria, here in Plaza Municipality. How many snacks did you inspect?
[Second speaker] Two types of checks were made. The comrade prepared the entire product, that is, with bread and all. He prepared seven complete samples and seven with ham only. There weren't even half of the required amounts in any of the cases.

[Clenton] What kind of experience do you have as food preparer? How many years have you worked preparing food?
[Unidentified food preparer] Some 3 years.

[Clenton] In 3 years have you not learned to figure out when the snack has the right amount of ingredients?
[Food preparer] I didn't weigh it. I did it by eye. They asked me for 5, to prepare 10. [sentence as heard]

[Zoe Martinez, prosecutor, identified by caption] As a result of these inspections, the prosecutor's office is going to prepare a document to reflect the check conducted today to the provincial restaurant enterprises, in this case, El Patio and La Arcada, where the violations have been detected. In this document, we will propose that measures be taken in line with the seriousness of the violations detected in order to prevent them. Not only administrative measures are requested but there are also violations from the penal point of view. There is a crime called consumer fraud. If it is confirmed, a preliminary file will be opened so that there are penal actions to the acts committed here. [end recording]

Despite the inspection work we just saw, which is aimed at enforcing the law, we believe that the greatest responsibility should be assumed by the management and organizations, in this case, of those related to this sector.

Citizen Arrested for Illegal Beef Trafficking

FL1608175289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Joint forces of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR] have arrested, in our capital, citizen Daniel Perez Ferrer for illegal beef trafficking.

After searching Perez Ferrer's house, which is located on Habana Street between Chacon and Cuartel Streets in Habana Vieja Municipality, several sacks were found which contained 600 pounds of beef. Perez Ferrer was driven to the first unit of the PNR [and will remain

there] while the case is under investigation. After the investigation is complete, this citizen will be taken to the appropriate authorities.

Medium-Size Fire in Sancti Spiritus Reported

FL1708010589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] A medium-size fire broke out before dawn this morning in a building occupied by the Cabaiguan Atelier and a book store, in Sancti Spiritus Province. The two establishments were totally destroyed by the flames because of the high combustion materials at the location such as paper, fabric, and wood roofs. Thanks to the fast action of the Sancti Spiritus-Cabaiguan fire fighters and the help received from Placetas, the fire did not spread to numerous neighboring houses, most of them made of wood. [Video shows destroyed building.]

The help received by Sancti Spiritus Municipality community services in the way of water pipes should be noted as well as the help provided by the Sergio Soto refinery workers and area residents. Preliminary damages have been estimated in over 160,000 pesos. The authorities are investigating the cause of the fire at this time.

Dominican Republic

Doctors Prohibited From Returning To Work

FL1608130389 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The health minister in the Dominican Republic has barred doctors at public hospitals from returning to work. The 5,000 doctors had temporarily suspended their month-long strike after President Joaquin Balaguer said he would negotiate with them if they would return to the emergency room.

The doctors are asking for a 100-percent increase in salaries and medical insurance for themselves and their families among other demands. They're resuming their strike and vowing to walk out indefinitely.

Grenada

Bishop Murder Appeal Postponed Until Aug 17

FL1608184589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Aug 16, CANA—The Maurice Bishop murder appeal which was due to resume on Wednesday failed to get underway because of the absence of one of the judges due to a change in schedule of one of the region's airlines.

The appeal court, under President Sir Frederick Smith with Justices Rex McKay and Time Kendall, last sat on June 9, but when the court resumed as scheduled, Justice Kendall was missing.

"As you will see", Sir Frederick told the defence and prosecution lawyers, "the court is not properly constituted. BWIA [British West Indes Airline] overflew Antigua yesterday which meant that Mr Justice Kendall is now still at his home in Antigua and will not get to Grenada before this afternoon. The president said there will be a sitting of the court on Thursday and an effort will be made to make up for the time lost on Wednesday.

Thirteen men and one woman have appealed against death sentences imposed on them when they were found guilty of the murder of Prime Minister of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), Maurice Bishop, and others on October 19, 1983. The condemned persons include former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his Jamaican wife, Phyllis, general of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), Hudson Austin together with commissioned officers and soldiers of the PRA. Also before the court are the appeals of three other men who have been sentenced to long prison terms for manslaughter arising from the same incident.

Court of Appeal To Resume

FL1608161189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1852 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Aug 15, CANA—The long days of anxious waiting continue for 13 men and 1 woman in death row at Richmond Hill Prison in Grenada.

The court of appeal will sit on Wednesday [16 August] for the 55th day of hearing their appeals in the Maurice Bishop murder case. The 14 were found guilty of the murder of former Prime Minister Bishop and others. Three others sentenced to long prison terms on the charge of manslaughter have also challenged their imprisonment.

Bishop, the charismatic leader of the left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) was executed by gun fire at the Headquarters of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) on October 19, 1983. Ten other people, including some members of his cabinet, died with Bishop and the country was taken over by a Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) headed by Coard and Hudson Austin, general of the PRA. Six days later began the controversial military intervention by forces of the United Sates and Caribbean countries and the RMC was defeated. Coard and Austin, with their associates, were arrested and 20 persons were charged with murder.

The primary inquiry, beginning in June 1984, freed one person and, in October of the same year, the remaining 19s accused were arraigned in the high court, most of them defended by lawyers paid for by the state because the accused were unable,as financially, to retain council.

A defence motion challenging the legality of the Grenada Supreme Court failed when the appeal court ruled that the court was "unconstitutional" but legal under the "doctrine of state necessity".

In August 1985, hearings began of several defence motions. When these had been disposed of, hearing of the murder charges began in March 1986 before Mr Justice Dennis Byron.

In addition to Coard and Austin, those charged included Coard's wife, Phyllis, members of Bishop's cabinet, officers and foot soldiers of the PRA and members of the NJM Central Committee.

Shortly after the trial began, [passage indistinct]. They charged that ther court was unconstitutional and was controlled by the United States of America. They refused to take any part in the trial and constantly disrupted the proceedings with chanting, stamping and clapping.

One of the accused, in return for a pardon, gave evidence for the prosecution and, after 30 other persons had testified, the jury returned its verdict in december 1986. Three foot soldiers, members of the execution squad, were found guilty of manslaughter, one was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and the other two to 45 years each. Austin and Coard were sentenced to death by hanging. Also condemned to the same fate were Phyliss Coard and eleven others. One man was found not guilty and freed.

Hearing of appeals against all these convictions began in May 1988 before then President of the Court Justice J.O.F. Haynes, with Justices Sir Frederick Smith and Rex Mckay, most of the accused again being represented by lawyers paid for by the state. Some delay was occasioned by the death of Court President Haynes in December 1988. His place has been taken by Sir Frederick, and Justice Time Kenday [names as received] completed the trio.

Appearing for the prosecution is the director of public prosecutions, Velma Hylton with Trinidadian Barrister Karl Hudson-Phillips and Guyanese Barrister Doonauth Singh. The defence team, comprised mainly of Jamaican lawyers, is led by Attorney Ian Ramsay.

The sitting is scheduled to run until September 1, and another sitting has been fixed for the period September 25 to October 6.

Haiti

Red Cross Help Against Repression Sought

FL1608233589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Solidarity With a View to a Movement of Small Haitian Peasant Farmers, a movement established in northwestern Haiti, has written the Haitian Red Cross authorities a letter asking them to give it some help in the area in view of the travail and turmoil its members are confronting.

In view of the repression being exercised in Raymond, Dubois, (?and) Lacoma, in the first communal section of Jean-Rabel—where many peasants have had to flee their homes, where nursing mothers are having to live in the brush with their babies, and where many refugees are having to (?lick their wounds under conditions of hardship)—and in other areas, Solidarity asks that the Haitian Red Cross quickly intervene in favor of the victims of this repression, which is upsetting the lives of peasant families in the Northwest terribly. [passage omitted]

The visit by the many human rights organizations to the barracks and the Justice Department offices in Mole Saint-Nicolas and Port-de-Paix has not brought any relief to the havoc being wreaked on the small peasant farmers.

Solidarity says: Information from the Northwest on Saturday 12 August says that the number of people who have had to flee has increased considerably over the weekend, and that conditions have become more critical and more difficult. We know that the Red Cross provides aid to victims of catastrophes and hurricanes. This repression going on in the first communal section of Jean-Rabel has left many parents with no means of survival. That is why Solidarity is asking the Red Cross to set up its tents among the population of Dubois, Raymond, and Lacoma to help these victims find a solution to their problems. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Organizations Hold News Conference

FL1608142489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The critical situation of human rights in Haiti has attracted the attention of human rights organizations, which held a news conference at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel this morning to denounce the numerous executions committed, particularly in provincial towns and in the nation's communal sections by section chiefs. They also denounced the generally critical human rights situation in Haiti.

We are going to listen to an excerpt from this news conference.

[Begin unidentified speaker, in Creole] We are going to ask the international authorities to also exert pressure, to see to what extent the situation can be improved. We have reports on this situation, and as Mr [Joseph] Maxi [of the Haitian Human Rights League] said a while ago, we have to get together to prepare a solid dossier. It is precisely this dossier that we will send out right and left, so that we may obtain some help.

We here on the terrain can't claim to have very strong means that we are going to use to change the situation. No. But what we can to do is to see, notice, denounce the situation. We can ask not only the international authorities but also the local Haitian authorities to intervene to see to what extent they themselves can take measures to improve the situation—for I think that they themselves feel the need to improve their image. If they need to improve their image, they will surely have to take that

path of putting a stop to repression. I think that they themselves will be the first to benefit from this, and (?we) next. [end recording]

Thus, these members of human rights organizations denounced flagrant violations of human rights in Haiti and the disregard for Article 19 of the 1987 Constitution, which is on human rights.

They also criticized the recent arrests of Patrick Casimir, Jean-Robert Lalanne, and peasants from Jean-Rabel, who are being held in Mole-St Nicolas after being arbitrarily arrested by the section chief merely for having worn t-shirts bearing the inscription "Solidarity With a View to a Movement of Small Haitian Peasant Farmers" on the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the massacre of peasants in Jean-Rabel.

Thus, the situation is critical, and the human rights organizations announced actions that they are going to undertake to try to have human rights respected in Haiti.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording in Creole, in progress] ...of international human rights organizations. As I just said, in regard to Haiti, the human rights sector in Haiti must assign a certain amount of responsibility to these international human rights organizations, because, as I just said, ever since the human rights policy was given new impetus worldwide, there has been a blackout on Haiti within the human rights committee. And the human rights committee is the heart of the matter, because it has a universal vocation in human rights matters, whereas the Inter-American Human Rights Committee is regional, very regional. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on News Conference

FL1708001889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In view of the deterioration in human rights in Haiti, the acts of violence being committed all over the place, and the attacks on peasants' popular and democratic organizations, four Haitian human rights organizations, which have been observing this situation, held a news conference yesterday morning at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel on the Champ de Mars. The speakers said there could be no real democracy in Haiti if human rights are not respected. They also said that the death squads were holding civilian society hostage and sowing mourning, anxiety, and despair among the population; that most of the victims are members of democratic and popular organizations and associations.

These human rights organizations denounced the fact that these acts are being committed by the very representatives of the government themselves, while in office. [passage omitted]

The human rights organizations feel that the civilian and military authorities are not doing their duty. Thus, none of the criminals are ever punished. They also condemned the resumption of U.S. Government aid to the Haitian Government. What they objected to is the U.S. Government's saying that aid is being resumed because the Haitian Government is making great efforts in the domain of human rights in Haiti; whereas they, the human rights organizations, who are on the scene, daily witness tragedies taking place right before their eyes.

At the same time, they also demand that the Army and Justice Department authorities take whatever measures are necessary to release prisoners being kept in jail illegally, set public action in motion against the criminals who are sowing mourning in Haiti, and stop the repression that is spreading in Haiti. [passage omitted] Let's listen to an excerpt of this news conference.

[Begin (Celestin Bernard), representative of the Lafontant Joseph Center for the Promotion of Human Rights, recording] [Passage omitted] These people who make up the death squads wear civilian clothing. Sometimes they also wear military uniforms. [passage omitted] They pillage, steal, and rape too—rape our daughters, our wives, our mothers, everybody! They wound and murder with impunity. The authorities whose job it is to guarantee everyone's civil security say nothing. We human rights organizations wish to denounce with all our force the increase in these acts of violence being committed in Haiti—acts that are sometimes committed by the direct representatives of the government, while they are exercising their duties.

We must also point out that most of these victims come from among the popular groups and organizations, among those people who are defending the peasants, and among the peasants movements. It is they, particularly, who are the victims. [passage omitted]

For example, in the third communal section of Marchand Dessalines, a peasant named (Regis Charlot) was murdered on 16 May 1989 by a member of the Armed Forces in uniform. [passage omitted] Just recently, again, we learned that eight peasants were illegally arrested in northwestern Haiti. These eight peasants are members of a peasant organization called Solidarity [Tet Kole], and it is the area section chief, a certain (Anovil St Vil), who is sowing terror this way. In fact, we just learned that after the visit by the delegation that we human rights organizations sent to the northwest, there is still—and even worse—persecution, to the point where many peasants are having to flee the area. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Joseph Maxi, representative of the Haitian Human Rights League, recording] I must today bring up before the Haitian press a problem that is very serious: If we Haitians—human rights organizations, journalists, and diverse sectors in Haiti—don't do everything we can to get this problem solved, human rights cannot at all be promoted in Haiti. [passage omitted] I had the opportunity to go to Geneva (?during) the last meeting of the human rights committee [words indistinct]. When I arrived, I was astonished to discover that there was a total blackout [preceding word in English] on Haiti in

regard to human rights. I say blackout [preceding word in English] because within the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Haiti has been placed among what they term the confidential proceedings [procedure confidentielle]. What does this mean? It means that all the meetings, all the discussions by the Human Rights Commission on human rights matters in Haiti, take place behind closed doors. Not even journalists may attend. Only one person is allowed to attend these meetings and present a report on the human rights situation: a representative of the Haitian Government. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Human Rights Violations Still Not Investigated

FL1608225289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Since 1986, the 3 years of military government have been equivalent to 3 years of all kinds of human rights violations. Despite all the pressure on the different governments and despite their promises to investigate, there has never been any follow-up to any of the most important criminal acts, in which certain members of the Armed Forces have been involved or named. On the contrary, the power of the people accused has been strengthened. This is what we have seen in connection with the Jean-Rabel incidents and also what we see in the Labadie situation.

A group of armed men murdered four youths in Labadie during a soccer match in Labadie on the afternoon of Sunday, 14 August 1988. It has been 1 year since this massacre, and the Justice Department has not done a single thing. Also, the climate of fear has intensified in the area: Several arrest warrants have been issued for the men accused of being murderers for more than a year now; however, these men have been promoted within the Haitian Army. They have become detectives at a little military outpost set up recently in the Labadie area.

Serges Desroches and several other members of the Labadie Youth Movement [MJL] whom we interviewed informed us that MJL members have no right whatsoever to assemble in the Labadie area. They also said that they do not dare to do so, because the murderers themselves have been given the task of keeping watch over what the MJL members say and do.

[Begin recording] [Desroches] [Passage omitted] The people who should be providing security for us are the very people who attack us. [passage omitted]

We saw who killed the four Labadie youths, because it happened at 1600 in broad daylight. Everyone saw all the people who came to kill the population, and we filed a complaint against these people.

As I just showed you, I have warrants from the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Saint-Marc ordering that these people be arrested for their participation in the crimes committed in Labadie. Since this government representative is the representative of the society, he knows about the case. He conducted an investigation and saw that these people had to be arrested. He had arrest warrants delivered to the barracks in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite; however, Lieutenant Maxi Maxim blocked all the warrants. [passage omitted]

Since the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor issued arrest warrants for these men, and since they were not arrested and have instead become bigshot authorities, they are doing as they please.

[Reporter] Was this military authority in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite the one who was there when the massacre occurred a year ago?
[Desroches] No. He wasn't there then. He arrived after 17 September.

[Reporter] Who was there, back then?
[Deroches] Back when the massacre occurred in 1988, another lieutenant, (Lafortune Faintus), was there.

[Reporter] But it seems to me that there were other military named in connection with....
[Desroches, interrupting] Indeed. We recognized two soldiers from Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite among the military involved in the 14 August massacre, and we have always given their names: Napoleon and Kebreau.

[Reporter] And where are these soldiers today?
[Desroches] One of them is at Fort Dimanche, or wherever Fort Dimanche is at present, in Delmas. I don't know what number in Delmas. The other is in L'Estere. Both are still in the Army.

[Reporter] And from the point of view of the Justice Department, almost nothing has been done, aside from the arrest warrants, which have never been executed?
[Desroches] Nothing at all, whatsoever, has been done! We see that both of the Avril government's justice ministers—Gilbert Austin and Augustin Romain Ceme—have asked that the public prosecutor set public action in motion. The public prosecutor has supposedly done this. However, no one has ever been arrested. The lieutenant has blocked all the arrest warrants that have been sent by the public prosecutor.

And we are sure, we know, that according to the law, the Army—or rather, the police—is supposed to be under the Justice Department. And when the public prosecutor orders someone to be arrested and the person is not arrested, we don't think this is a simple thing. Neither do we think it is a decision on the part of Lt Maxi Maxim, the commanding officer of Petite Riviere, to not arrest the people. We tend to think it is a decision of the government itself, because the justice minister, who (?orders) the public prosecutor to set public action in motion to arrest the murderers who participated in the Labadie massacre, is part of the government, part of the executive. I mean, he is an important government official. I simply do not believe that it is Lt Maxim who refuses to arrest the people because he, personally, does

not want to. I tend to believe that it is the government's general policy to not arrest any criminal. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Does this mean that the MJL has been destroyed?
[Desroches] Well, no. We don't think so. We are still there on the scene, and there are certain development projects that we are working on that we will be able to carry out anyway. For example, we were working on an irrigation project in Labadie. We were trying to see how we could irrigate Labadie. We remain firm on this. We are still doing this. It is a development action, and we think it is of interest to the masses of people who are suffering, and also (?important) to everyone who believes in change. We think there must be development, and thus, in regard to this matter, we are still functioning. However, we cannot meet, assemble, anymore. We are not allowed to.

Since we are working on development, we will try very soon, in September, to begin digging a canal there.... [changes thought] We don't know if the military will also ask us not to dig the canal.

However, we are certain that we are going to begin digging a canal in September to see if we can irrigate some 50-60 hectares of land in Labadie. [Passage omitted]

The [home economics] center was destroyed and we have not yet rebuilt it. We do intend to rebuild it, because we feel that we too have some rights in the society, for we too are human beings. As for the preschool, it is still operative, although on 17 February, Lt Maxim sent.... [changes thought] I am saying this because the detectives themselves said it, while they were chopping up the benches in the preschool with machetes.... [changes thought] They had [words indistinct] in their hands that day. They had put on red armbands and red bandanas around their necks [the red bandana around the neck was part of the uniform of the Volunteers for National Security, or Tontons Macoutes], and said they had orders to trash the school. They said they had to trash it because it was a communist school.

However, the school later reopened and finished out the school year anyway. And now we are preparing to open the school in October. We are going to make it bigger. We think that in a country that has no schools, if someone makes the sacrifice and does something, if someone does (?the nation) a service, I think that regardless of whatever government is in power, the government should be in favor of the people's doing something positive. [end recording].

Economic Ties Discussed With Dominican Official

FL1608152189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] The president of the Haitian-Dominican Chamber (?of Commerce), Mr Cristobal Paulino, and a Dominican presidential agricultural consultant met with Haitian Government members and businessmen last weekend. The visit allowed for an exchange of ideas on Haitian-Dominican economic cooperation. The precise objective of the visit was to deepen relations between the Haitian Government and Haitian and Dominican businessmen.

Haitian-Dominican Chamber (?of Commerce) President Paulino believes Haiti and the Dominican Republic can create a common market.

Armed, Uniformed Men Kill 3 in Artibonite

FL1708003289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Report by Saint-Marc correspondent Rodrigue F. Sejour]

[Text] On the night of 14 August, a group of armed men appeared in (Coq Molle) and (Raymond Saint), two neighborhoods in Preval, a rural section of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. They also appeared in Jean Denis. This group of men did all kinds of things! They went from house to house, making off with money.

According to the police, some 30 people in the area fell victim to these men, who took a total of more than 25,000 gourdes from these people. They also shot several people. Among the people shot, three were killed: (Mona Leande), (Raymond Dieu Louis), and Mrs (Francois Blosaque). After a formal report was written up, the dead were taken to the morgue at Saint Nicolas Hospital in Saint-Marc. [First name indistinct] Pierre and (Francois Blosaque) Jr were seriously wounded and are being treated at Saint Nicolas Hospital in Saint-Marc.

According to the victim's relatives and the area section chief, the criminals were armed with UZIs and wearing olive green uniforms.

We remind listeners that some 8 days ago, there was a similar incident in Villard, a rural section of Dessalines, at the home of (Meronvil Estime), a merchant who is treasurer of the Adventiste Church. After taking all the money in the house, they shot (Estime) in the right arm.

We note that armed robberies are becoming increasingly frequent in the lower Artibonite Valley.

This is Rodrigue F. Sejour in Saint-Marc for Radio Nationale d'Haiti.

New Public Prosecutor Delbeua Installed

FL1608135189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Mr (Gerard Arthur Delbeau) is the new public prosecutor heading the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Port-au-Prince, replacing Mr Lexius Pierre. Mr (Delbeau) was installed this morning at the offices of the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Port-au-Prince.

Mr (Delbeau) becomes the third representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the civil court of Port-au-Prince since General Avril came to power in a coup on 17 September of last year.

Jamaica

Michael Manley To Address U.S. Officials

FL1608163689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1451 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] New York, Aug 16, CANA—Jamaica's Prime Minister, Michael Manley, is heading a major Caribbean presence at the 14th annual convention of the National Association of Black Journalists in the United States, now taking place in New York.

Manley, in New York to meet Jamaican nationals, business executives, and government officials, is to address the more than 1,300 black journalists from across the U.S. on Friday [18 August] evening. It will be about 7 hours after after Diane Abbott, a member of the British House of Commons, addresses the convention which is looking at an array of issues affecting journalism, not only in the U.S. but in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. Ms Abbott, who is black and traces her background to Jamaica, is scheduled to speak after another product of Jamaican immigrants, General Colin Powell, addresses the journalists at the New York Hilton Hotel in Manhattan on Thursday [17 August] afternoon.

General Powell was recently nominated to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces. If he is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, General Powell, whose parents came to New York from Jamaica in the 1920s and raised their son in the South Bronx, will be the world's most influential military officer.

The convention of black journalists is dealing with such issues as racism in the news media; the plight of the black athlete as the influencial organs of mass communication cover sports; the language of racism; and how journalists of African descent in the U.S., the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and elsewhere establish and maintain links among themselves to promote a better understanding of themselves and their different countries and regions.

Montserrat

Trade Unions Agree on Proposed 'Umbrella' Group

FL1608205089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1958 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Aug 16, CANA—Montserrat's three largest trade unions ended a meeting on Tuesday [15 August] night with broad agreement on the structure of a proposed umbrella labour grouping for this 39-square mile British colony.

The Montserrat Civil Service Association, the Teachers Union and the Montserrat Allied Workers Union (MAWU), are among five unions which have indicated their commitment to the proposed Trade Union Congress (TUC). The unions hope to form an umbrella body before next month end.

Absent from last night's meeting were representatives from the Montserrat Medical Association and the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union.

MAWU General Secretary Vereen Thomas told CANA the meeting considered the constitutions of umbrella trade union bodies in the Bahamas, Grenada and Guyana, to determine the suitability of their application to the proposed grouping. She said agreements reached by the three unions will be sent to officials of the two absent unions for ratification. After ratification, the proposals will go before a special drafting committee. The five unions represent about 2,000 of Montserrat's estimated 5,000 workers.

St Lucia

Ministry Defends Trade Position With Caricom

FL1608153589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1751 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, August 15, CANA— A St Lucian Trade Ministry official has defended the country's commitment to regional trade following criticism by the Barbados Manufacturers' Association [BMA] that Barbadian goods were being bypassed for Far Eastern and American imports. "We try as much as possible to source our goods from within the region, and we are usually at pains to direct our importers in that direction," Permanent Secretary in the Trade and Industry Ministry Anthony Savarin said.

BMA President Lewis Kirton told journalists in Bridgetown a week ago he was disappointed with recent trade missions to St Lucia and Antigua. He said Korean, Japanese, and Hong Kong garments and Italian furniture were being imported by the two states while similar products were available in Barbados.

Savarin said that, as far as the government was aware, it had been able to resolve all difficulties which had been outstanding with Barbados. He said that as recently as the last Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government meeting in Grenada, St Lucia and Barbados agreed that they had settled all matters relating to trade. "We have had no official notification that there is a problem. So far as we are concerned, given the recognition that there has been a resolution of all outstanding problems, we do not now have a trade problem with Barbados," the trade official said.

"The fact is that our imports from Barbados have been increasing over the years. In 1988 we imported goods from Barbados to the value of 19.5 million (East Caribbean) dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 U.S. cents). In 1987 the figure was 14 million, and the trend has been on the increase," the ministry official said. Savarin said that St

Lucia continues to play a significant role in promoting intra-regional trade. "The records will show that, over the years, we have also been importing significantly from within the Caricom region," he said. In 1986, St Lucia imported E.C. 65.8 million dollars in goods from Caricom, while in 1987 that figure increased to 72.1 million E.C. and there was a furher growth to 91.6 million in 1988. "This shows clearly that, if anything, St Lucia is contributing its fair share to regional trade and is importing significant amounts of goods and services from the region," Savarin said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidadians Still Denied Bail on Drug Charges

FL1708000189 Bridgetown CANA in English 2300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 16, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Chief Magistrate Melville Baird on Wednesday [16 Aug] for the third time turned down applications for bail by three Trinidadian men facing extradition to Britain on drug-related charges. The three men, Percival Lezama, Ramcharan Bedasie, and Winston Pirally, stand charged of conspiracy to import illegal drugs into Britain.

A line-up senior attorneys, led by former Attorneys-General Karl Hudson-Phillips and Russell Martineau, argued for almost an hour that conspiracy was a bailable offence as were the majority of drug charges. They questioned whether bail was being denied because the charges faced were in the United Kingdom or because the request for their arrests had come from Britain. "If this precedent is set, does it mean that a foreign government...just at a request...the person is picked up and because its a serious charge, won't get bail?" lawyer Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj argued. "One can become very emotional when the word drug is involved...and more when the British Government is mentioned," Port of Spain attorney Osbourne Charles told the packed court.

However, Baird stuck to his original decision citing statements by acting Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Gladys Gafoor. Gafoor, who is representing the British Government as well as the state of Trinidad and Tobago, said the three men were allegedly "principals in a massive drug ring".

The Chief Magistrate again advised the defence team of their right to take their bail application to a judge in chambers although the team has already withdrawn from this route citing lack of documents from the prosecution on the specific charges.

Two British officials, who state they are linked to U.K. customs, have been in court all week waiting for the start of the actual case. The basic case has been delayed by technical arguments over the court's jurisdiction to extradite to Britain and the issue of bail. Following three days of hearing these arguments, Baird is scheduled to deliver a judgement on the court's jurisdiction next Wednesday [23 Aug].

Defence attorneys argued that the laws of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom did not sufficiently match to allow extradition under Trinidad's Commonwealth and Foreign Territories Act of 1984. The state is arguing that they do correspond.

Although the evidence is yet to be laid in the main part of the extradition case, the three men have been escorted to the Port of Spain Magistrates Court each day under heavy security.

Daily Wants Mount Hope Medical Center Reviewed

FL1608192289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 16, CANA—The TRINIDAD GUARDIAN on Wednesday urged health minister, Dr Emmanuel Hosein, to consult members of the medical profession before going ahead on plans to open up the billion dollar Mount Hope medical complex.

In its editorial "question of Mount Hope", the paper raised some of the concerns by leading medical practitioners questioning plans to transfer the majority of Port-of-Spain general hospital facilities to Mount Hope and to step up medical training at the impressive complex. "Now both the proposed medical school and the transfer of hospital beds from the city to Mount Hope have run into considerable opposition from within the profession, and government may want to rethink these moves, even at this late stage, about two months before the complex is commissioned," the GUARDIAN said.

The paper questioned the two different pictures of the current "sorry state" of the nation's hospitals and the "grandiose plans" for Mount Hope - the high cost health facility dream of the last administration. "If we could turn back the clock, we would build a half dozen properly equipped area hospitals all over the nation instead of a 1.2 billion dollar (one TT dollar - 23.5 U.S.-cents) complex at Mount hope but we cannot, the GUARDIAN said.

"This large, new, well equipped complex is there and it would a crime not to use it. Still, in a situation where poorer citizens are suffering severely for want of proper health care, it present something of a dilemna." "Maybe Dr Hosein should have a consultation with concerned members of the medical profession before undertaking any radical rearrangement of the country's health establishment," the GUARDIAN suggested.

Attorney General's Office Denies DEA Flights

FL1608215589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1952 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Attorney General's Office (PGR) has denied that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is going to fly over Mexican territory.

A PGR spokesman explained that although the need for joint verification in the fight against drug trafficking was noted during the recently held Mexico-U.S. meeting, this proposal has not been carried out yet.

The project, included in a document issued during the meeting between the two nations, is part of an information exchange program. The program, which would have to be approved by the chiefs of state of the two countries, will be carried out gradually, without affecting the national sovereignty, said the spokesman.

For their part, Coahuila Government officials (in northern Mexico), asserted that they have not received any permit requests from the DEA to carry out such actions.

PRI Blames PRD for Michoacan Disorders

PA1608160189 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Yesterday in Morelia the electoral college that will determine the legality of the 2 July elections in Michoacan, in which 18 deputies by majority and 6 by proportional representation were elected, was sworn in.

Victor Manuel Tinoco Rubi and Roberto Molina Loza, both of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], are president and secretary, respectively of the electroal college. The college is formed by four members of the PRI, one from the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], one from PAN [National Action Party] and one from the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution.

Meanwhile, the State Electoral Commission has decreed a recess until the morning of 18 August. [passage omitted]

The PRI has issued a bulletin blaming Senators Cristobal Arias Solis and Roberto Robles Garnica, both of the PRD, for the incidents. The bulletin states that the PRI will observe a prudent attitude. The bulletin also states that the incidents confirm what the PRI has been stressing; that the PRD does not want a serious and responsible political campaign.

The PRI says that the PRD wants to violate legality and the de jure regime.

The bulletin signed by the PRI State Committee in Michoacan adds that the citizens must remain watchful, asks them not to fall prey to acts of provocation, and to act responsibly.

New Television System To Begin September

FL1608211589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1952 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Aug (NOTIMEX)—With an investment of over $10 million, the new Multivision television system will begin transmitting next September. This was reported by Alberto Ennis, the company's director.

The businessman said MVS-Multivision television network will have eight channels. They will use the super high frequency band with 100 watts of power.

The new network, which will operate through Morelos I Satellite, will cover the entire Mexican territory through the subscriptions system. It will cost approximately $500 with a yet undetermined monthly fee.

The television system will broadcast 16 hours: 65 percent of the time will include Latin American programs, 25 percent will be devoted to European and U.S. series, and 15 percent of the time will carry its own productions.

Regarding its programming, Ennis said 45 percent will include domestic and international films; 13 percent will be sports programs; and 12 percent will be documentaries, interviews, and varieties. Also, 11 percent of the production will include cartoons, 10 percent will be series, and 9 percent will be news.

For his part, Pedro Ferriz de Con, the new television system's news director, said Multivision's news programming intends to link Mexico with Mexico [as received].

Costa Rica

RN Reportedly Closing Offices in San Jose

PA1508193289 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Aug 89 p 3-A

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Directorate has begun closing their San Jose offices.

A source belonging to that organization who wishes to remain anonymous reported that the RN's information, press, and administrative offices are being shut down.

The source said that this is part of what is supposed to be the restructuring of the RN forces, which will be reduced to a minimum and used as support for the National Opposition Union abroad.

The demobilization conforms with a plan announced a few days ago by the RN Directorate for a budget cutback in administrative and media-related activites.

Legislative Commission Approves Adjustment Plan

PA1308185889 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Summary] The special legislative commission analyzing a structural adjustment plan has approved several proposals. The commission members agreed that 30 percent of the program's $200 million will be used to increase the state banks' capital, 20 percent for loans, and the remaining 50 percent to absorb Central Bank losses.

El Salvador

D'Aubuisson Interview on ARENA Policy

AU1608154589 Vienna PROFIL in German 14 Aug 89 pp 48-50

[Interview with Roberto D'Aubuisson, founder of the ruling ARENA Party, by Erhard Stackl: "In a Pond Together With a Shark;" date and place not given]

[Text] PROFIL: You are well-known and feared because you do not want to make compromises to defeat your opponents. If you want the guerrillas from the Farabundo National Liberation Front (FMLN) to lay down their arms and be integrated into the country's political life, what guarantees do you offer them?

D'Aubuisson: Look, Mr Ungo and Mr Zamora from the Convergencia Democratica (leftist opposition alliance—the editors) and others who used to be members of the FMLN leadership are walking around undisturbed. I talk with them, we jointly participated in the elections, and we understand each other. The ARENA Party was founded in 1981 during a difficult period. In 1980 I was even sent to prison. We had to be aggressive in a democratic manner at the time, and we created the slogan: "The most powerful weapon is the right to vote." Our philosophy is neoliberal, and we are described as rightist. However, the only way we defeated our enemies was through elections. If, one day, the people no longer believe in us, we will lose in a democratic manner.

PROFIL: However, the ARENA Party also used weapons in its struggle, at least during the first phase.

D'Aubuisson: Never.

PROFIL: What about the party's links with the "death squads," which has been the subject of discussion for a long time?

D'Aubuisson: U.S. Ambassador Robert White was the first to claim that a group consisting of rightists and the Armed Forces organized the death squads. However, White left El Salvador in 1980, and the ARENA Party was not founded until the end of 1981. Subsequently there were reports that this "group consisting of rightists and members of the Armed Forces" and the ARENA Party are identical. Since a most beautiful child was born in Nicaragua, the Sandinist Government, the birth of another similar monster was expected in El Salvador. However, the ARENA Party prevented this by winning elections in 1982. A certain Roberto D'Aubiusson emerged at the time, and I became president of the constituent assembly. It was my task to stop the communist avalanche. People thought I would form armed columns, but I drafted a new constitution instead.

PROFIL: However, there were numerous human rights violations at the same time.

D'Aubuisson: What about our human rights? What about those who were killed? What about the car bombs and the power outages? When power fails, children die in the hospitals. We are supposed to accept this and even be grateful for it. But what happens when the Armed Forces destroy a terrorist camp? Then we are described as being repressive, and people call us Nazis. One never hears any voices criticizing the FMLN. Nobody calls on them not to kill innocent people.

PROFIL: What is your position on human rights?

D'Aubuisson: There are people who visit our country and speak about human rights without knowing what they are talking about. I have asked numerous U.S. senators and congressmen: What human rights are we violating? Individual, civil, political, economic, or cultural rights? We discovered that they did not know anything about this. In 1980 economic rights were violated here in El Salvador, when we were expropriated through the agricultural reform. The poor farmers did not profit at all from this reform; it only led to an economic crisis. Now we are tackling a real transformation of agriculture. Our political human rights were also violated when the CIA supported the election campaign of the Christian Democrats with $300 million. One has to see the complete truth. We are 100-percent democrats. If a black is elected president in 5 years, I will call on the people to support the black. Why do you think all the simple and hungry people voted for the ARENA Party? They voted for us because they trusted us. We are

diligent and we can give people jobs. It would have been much easier for many in the ARENA Party to sell their property and leave the country. However, we stayed to give jobs to the poor.

PROFIL: What about human rights...

D'Aubuisson: The nicest story I have ever heard was a story by a U.S. reporter who had lived in the former Belgian Congo for 2 years. A young man from one tribe wanted to marry a female (footnote 1) (D'Aubuisson uses the Spanish word 'hembra' which is usually used for female animals) from another tribe. For the wedding celebrations, a man was selected, cooked, and eaten up. In their culture, this was the highest expression of the unification of both tribes. If Amnesty International members were to hear that, they would be capable of dropping an atom bomb on them, because human rights are being violated there. Human rights have to be seen from the standpoint of the respective culture.

PROFIL: Do you want to say that El Salvador has its own criteria in defining violence?

D'Aubuisson: Our culture cannot be judged on the basis of European standards. It is hard to explain to people that they should not use violence. If a neighbor steals something from a farmer who can neither read nor write, he will try to settle the matter with a stick in his hand.

PROFIL: When will the ARENA government offer to negotiate with the FMLN?

D'Aubuisson: President Cristiani has established a peace commission that will open a dialogue. President Arias (of Costa Rica) has expressed his willingness to invite the FMLN to open talks. We have always maintained dialogue with all political forces, parties, and trade unions. In addition, we have the freedom of the press. Everybody says what he wants to say. Radio and television in particular cover subversive actions to a greater extent than government activities.

PROFIL: The government spends 30 percent of its budget on defense and security. So, there is not much left for education and health.

D'Aubuisson: This is the result of Mr Carter's work. It was not enough for the man specialized in the production of peanuts to lose Iran and Nicaragua, he wanted to abandon our country as well. He thought that—no matter what the governments in Latin America are like, even if they are communist—the United States would continue to control the economy of the Latin American states. He made the whole Latin American continent poor. In 1979, 80 percent of our budget was allocated to investments and 20 percent to wages, and now 90 percent is spent on wages and 10 percent on investments. Many thanks, Mr Carter. He supported Somoza's overthrow in Nicaragua, and he backed the coup d'etat that took place in El Salvador in 1979. As a result, reforms were carried out, and production stopped. At that point, the United States provided aid, which, however, was linked to certain conditions. When the coup d'etat was carried out in 1979, the FMLN did not exist. There were two or three small terrorist groups that kidnapped and killed people. At the time, respectable Mr Carter made Mr Manuel Ungo head of the government. Ungo was president of the junta for 3 months. With the help of the governing apparatus and the money that was at his disposal, he established the FMLN and its political wing, the Revolutionary Democratic Front—and left the government. He became chairman of those who wanted to gain power by means of violence—just like the Sandinists. Ungo left the government in 1980, and exactly 1 year later the FMLN launched its "last offensive" which, however, failed. When Ungo left the government, the United States made (the Christian Democrat) Napoleon Duarte chairman of the junta. This was a clever move, because in this way it drove a wedge into the socialist-communist front to which the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) also belonged. The PDC was so happy to be part of the government that it left its communist allies in the lurch. The FMLN's "last offensive" was already directed against the Duarte government. We were the only ones who did not join this coalition —we did not know what was going on. One year earlier, Duarte and Ungo still cooperated; then Ungo attacked Duarte, and Duarte attacked us. According to the propaganda, we were identical with the death squads. In this situation we organized the ARENA Party, which immediately won parliamentary elections in 1982. This came as a great surprise for the United States because it was sure the Christian Democrats would win the elections. However, it was the Right that won! Therefore, the United States chose me as its main opponent. D'Aubuisson killed Bishop Romero, the North Americans claimed. They organized this propaganda while I was president of the constituent assembly. Presidential elections were scheduled for 1984. They were afraid that D'Aubuisson would destroy their plans if he were elected. Despite their efforts, I won the presidential elections against Duarte. However, the CIA came, interfered, and made Duarte president. Thank God! Now we have an undisputed president. I would not have been a good president.

PROFIL: Do you suggest that there was an election fraud?

D'Aubuisson: Yes, my political rights were violated.

PROFIL: President Alfredo Cristiani is trying to convince his Central American counterparts of a "symmetry" between the anti-Sandinist contras and the FMLN. Are there not considerable differences between these two groups?

D'Aubuisson: The contras fight for democracy and freedom in Nicaragua. The FMLN struggles to establish a totalitarian ideology. Therefore, it is unacceptable to compare the Sandinists with the contras. However, there is one point of contact: The Sandinists are supplying the Farabundos with weapons. Because of the pressure exerted by the contras, the Sandinists cannot act freely. We have now made the proposal that the contras should

only deposit their weapons—with the UN blue berets, for example. At the same time, their camps in Honduras would turn into ordinary refugee camps, and the contras should be integrated into Nicaragua's political process, as Daniel Ortega claimed. However, if Ortega, as a good Marxist, does not stick to this agreement, they can again use their weapons and exert military pressure. We assume the same obligations vis-a-vis the Farabundos. They should deposit their weapons with a Sandinist commission if they want to. Then they should be integrated into society, as President Cristiani suggested. If someone puts me in a pond together with a shark, and the shark promises not to eat me, I do not believe him. Thus, let us act simultaneously: We keep our promise to integrate the Farabundos, and Ortega keeps his promise to integrate the contras. Then one is in a pond together with a shark, but in a protective cage.

Cadet Officers Wounded in Guerrilla Attack

PA1508162989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1449 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Aug (DPA)—Five cadet officers and two security forces personnel were seriously wounded today in an attack by urban guerrillas on a public security academy located in an area between the capital and Santa Tecla, 7 km from downtown San Salvador.

The Armed Forces Press Committee has not issued an official report on this attack yet, but military sources have unofficially admitted the casualty figures and said that the installations of the academy were damaged by rockets.

Rebel spokesmen have called the media to say that "The Armed Struggle for Democracy Makes No Stops" operation, as they called it, was carried out by urban guerrillas from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front.

The academy has been functioning for the past 5 years on a farm in the suburbs of San Salvador. Its first director, Colonel Roberto Armando Rivera, was killed at the beginning of July when he was San Salvador's Fire Department chief.

The rebels reported this morning that they were able to overcome and evade the security watch around the academy, and then entered its installations where they caused much damage and inflicted casualties on the cadets "being trained there for purposes of repression."

According to the urban guerrillas, at least 50 cadet officers were receiving instructions from local and U.S. experts at the time of attack.

The attack lasted at least 30 minutes. The attackers were able to withdraw before the arrival of reinforcements for the academy, which is located only 5 minutes away from the Armed Forces staff headquarters. The staff headquarters has armed helicopters and soldiers ready to go into action whenever there is an emergency at the Defense Ministry, Military School, Armed Forces Staff, or nearby areas.

FMLN Attacks Police Garrisons in Santa Tecla

PA1608144289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1215 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] urban guerrillas have outwitted the Salvadoran Army's defense system in installations [words indistinct] by attacking police garrisons in Ciudad Barrios and Santa Tecla.

At 1800 on 14 August, FMLN men took up positions on the periphery of this installation and attacked (?the enemy) with rocket launchers and other weapons, damaging the installation and inflicting numerous casualties, including noncommissioned officers and officers [words indistinct].

The attack lasted more than 30 minutes. The enemy counterattacked with helicopters [words indistinct] an operation to counter our actions in the capital.

Guatemala

Army Reports Officer Killed in Guerrilla Ambush

PA1608015589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1535 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A Guatemalan Army lieutenant was killed and three soldiers and two civilians were slightly injured when guerrillas ambushed a military patrol in the centrally located Chimaltenango Department, Army sources reported today.

Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, spokesman for the Guatemalan Armed Forces, told ACAN-EFE that the guerrillas set off two "Claymore" mines while the military men patrolled one of the streets in the Tecpan Municipality, Chimaltenago Department.

The spokesman added that in the attack, Lieutenant Eliseo Martinez Lazo, 32, was killed and three soldiers and two civilians were wounded. This took place on Sunday, and because it was an ambush, the guerrillas suffered no casualties.

In Chimaltenango, cells of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), which together with the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), and the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), comprise the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

Honduras

Foreign Minister Reacts to Deferring of Lawsuit

PA1608201589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras has described as a "consistent step" Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's decision to request the International Court of Justice [ICJ] to "defer" a suit that Nicaragua had filed against Honduras.

In 1986 the Nicaraguan Government sued Honduras for the latter's lending its territory for the establishment of bases from which the contras have been launching attacks against Nicaraguan military and civilian targets since 1982.

Lopez said: "President Ortega has taken a step consistent with the accords reached by the Central American presidents at the end of the 5th summit held in Tela, Honduras from 5 to 7 August."

Nicaragua was scheduled to present to the ICJ a paper supporting the demand against Honduras no later than 19 September.

According to Ortega's request, however, the deadline to present the paper has been deferred until December this year.

Lopez Contreras recalled that Honduras had withdrawn a UN reservation that covered the sending of international peace forces to Central America, "also in compliance with the Tela agreements."

The Tela agreements include the demobilization, repatriation, or voluntary relocation to third countries of Nicaraguan "contras" based in Honduras.

To implement this plan, the Central American presidents agreed to ask the United Nations and the OAS to establish the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV).

The CIAV, which is not operating yet, is to submit by 8 December, at the latest, a report to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and to the Central American presidents.

The CIAV should try and find the mechanisms to disarm, demobilize, and repatriate or relocate to third countries the Nicaraguan "contras." In addition, the CIAV is to ensure that other countries' territory is not used to harbor hostile forces against another country.

"I believe that Nicaragua and Honduras are complying with their part of the Tela agreements and that is very positive for the Central American area peace process," the Honduran foreign minister said.

In previous statements, Lopez Contreras had described the Nicaraguan lawsuit against Honduras at the ICJ as a "delicate and dangerous affair."

No other Honduran sector has reacted today to the decision by the Nicaraguan president of "deferring" the international lawsuit against Honduras.

Government Begins Nicaraguan Refugee Census

PA1608175889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government reported today that it has begun a census of Nicaraguan refugees with a view toward their voluntary repatriation in compliance with the recent agreements reached by the Central American presidents.

Access to the camps of Nicaraguan refugees has been denied to reporters and people who have nothing to do with humanitarian or assistance work.

An official spokesman said that "access to the camps is denied so as to not interfere with the work by immigration personnel doing the census."

The camps are under the jurisdiction of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Honduran Government's National Refugee Commission (CONARE).

According to CONARE statistics, there are 23,498 Nicaraguan refugees distributed in four camps of which 9,099 are Atlantic coast Indians belonging to the Mikito, Sumo, Creole, and Rama tribes.

However, it is also known that there are some 220,000 more Nicaraguans spread about Honduras, living with relatives or making a living on their own.

In addition, Honduras has 13,360 Salvadoran and 434 Guatemalan refugees.

The Salvadorans have said they are willing to voluntarily return to their places of origin with the guarantees requested of President Alfredo Cristiani.

The guarantees were requested through Honduran Bishop Luis Santos, who was named mediator and who met with Cristiani on 6 August during a recess of the Central American summit that took place in Tela, on the Honduran Atlantic coast.

Santos said at the time, he found the Salvadoran president to be very receptive to the repatriation of refugees.

Nicaragua

PSC Names Ramirez Presidential Candidate

PA1608215589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] The Social Christian Party [PSC] "will participate in the elections with victory in mind," Erick Ramirez

said yesterday at the Ticomo Hotel after a PSC extraordinary congress named him as its official candidate for the Presidency.

In his speech to close the political event, Ramirez reaffirmed the PSC's readiness "to meet with any opposition sector if our own identity as a party is respected." However, he immediately warned that if this does not happen "the PSC will then participate with its own forces."

In remarks to BARRICADA, Erick referred to the "conditions" of respecting the PSC program so it can be possible to support a single opposition candidate on a ticket where there is not only room for Violeta Chamorro but for him too in a formula to face the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

Invited to the closing of the PSC congress were representatives from almost all the opposition parties. Approximately 300 delegates from throughout the country endorsed a government platform drafted by the PSC. Moreover, 45 municipalities from different regions were represented through their candidates to the posts of mayor and councilman.

Ramirez announced the government platform, which was drafted in accordance with its historic program, through PSC assistant secretary Luis Vega Miranda. The PSC proposes, once it wins the elections, to create a nonpolitical army and a police corps headed by a civilian, to replace Sandinist defense committees with broader "middle level organizations," to order land reform, and to have different organizations than the ones that already exist.

Correction to Ortega Announces Detainees Released

PA1608220389

The following correction pertains to the article headlined "Ortega Announces Release of Detainees," published in the 16 August Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 8:

page 9, column one, first paragraph, sentence two, make read: ...of the Nicaraguan youth organized to defend-...(clarifying queried word)

page 9, column one, penultimate paragraph, sentence two, make read: ...had to flee just as the...(eliminating editorial notation)

page 9, column one, last paragraph, from sentence five, make read: ...are in Honduras. They have given names to the places where the camps are located. [3-second break in...(supplying indistinct words)

page 9, column two, first paragraph, sentence two, make read: ...of war, the workers, who are enemies of war, the mothers, who are enemies of war. All of us are enemies of...(eliminating editorial notation and supplying missing passage)

page 9, column two, third paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...place to another, running around—running around because they attack, and when they confront BLI's [battalions for unconventional warfare] they start running. (supplying indistinct words)

page 10, column one, last paragraph, sentence two, make read: ...all the prisons throughout the country to identify the peasants...(eliminating editorial notation, supplying missing words)

page 10, column two, fourth paragraph, sentence three, make read: It will be done in a joint manner because our obligation is to work for peace—us, because we are the government, and the church because it is the religious authority of our people. (clearing words indistinct, rewording)

page 11, column one, penultimate paragraph from sentence seven, to last paragraph first sentence, make read: ...are in jail, roaming, feeling hungry, enduring hardships, risking being targets of shots, and are not in Honduras also facing difficulties...(supplying missing passage, eliminating paragraph division, clearing words indistinct, rewording)

page 11, column two, last paragraph, sentence five, make read: ...has sacrificed and devoted so much effort to attain peace...(supplying word indistinct, rewording)

page 12, column one, third paragraph, sentence one, make read: ...spent 7 years and 1 month in jail during Somoza's...(supplying words indistinct)

page 12, column two, first paragraph, sentence three, make read: Ah, if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] had told the...(adding editorial notation)

page 13, column one, penultimate paragraph, sentence one, make read: Today, once again, the FSLN honors the slogan of implacable in war,...(supplying words indistinct)

page 14, column one, second paragraph, from sentence two, make read: ...all their names. They are all there. Let's see whose...(supplying words indistinct)

Panama

Former Minister Views Bush's Remarks on Noriega

PA1608175089 Panama City Radio Ritmo in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Remarks by Mario Rognoni, former commerce and industry minister, during "Morning Parameters" talk show—live]

[Text] Mr Bush discussed the case of Panama during his news conference. He made what I think is an unfortunate comparison, because he is taking advantage of his power when he talks about the possibility that if the U.S. Army were to conduct an operation in Panama to kidnap General Noriega, they would neither consider it a kidnapping nor a hostage operation.

[Moderator] Did he cite this as an example?

[Rognoni] Yes, because they asked him directly. He said that the United States on one occasion went to get an Arab terrorist blamed for the Aquilo Lauro incident. Look at the comparison he makes.

He says that in this case General Noriega has some charges pending against him. That is where Bush errs because it is not the same situation.

First, in the case of General Noriega there was an arraignment but he has not been sentenced. He is not guilty until proved so in a trial, and no trial has been conducted. Besides, the United States has erred in not trying him in absentia, which can be conducted easily in any case, in any court, in any country. However, they have not wanted to do this because they do not have the evidence and they know that they would lose the case.

Therefore, Bush was a little off the mark, as far as the reporter's question is concerned.

Arias Calderon Reacts to Remarks

PA1708015189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2332 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 Aug (DPA)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, opposition leader and president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], said today that the Panamanian opposition and the Bush administration have different viewpoints on the reasons for the "conflict" with General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"You have to make a distinction between the reasons for the conflict between the Panamanian people and Gen Noriega and the reasons for the conflict between the U.S. Government and the commander of the Panama Defense Forces," Arias Calderon added.

According to the PDC leader, "the reason for the conflict with Noriega is that he acts like a dictator. The Panamanian opposition wants to put an end to this regime through democratization."

He said Gen Noriega's problem with Washington "has a different element, and that is the legal charges involving drug trafficking which have been filed against him in U.S. courts."

Arias Calderon stressed that, regarding Gen Noriega, "President Bush has reacted based on his own reasons, while the Panamanian opposition reacts based on its reasons."

The opposition leader said that in the opposition's democratization solution, "the constitutional order must be respected." He added that, within this framework, the general would be protected by the Panamanian Constitution in every way when he retires." [quotation marks as received]

Arias Calderon's comment concerning Gen Noriega came after he was asked to give his opinion of President Bush's statement that he does not rule out "the capture" of the Panamanian general to make him appear before the Florida prosecutor who initiated proceedings against him in January 1988.

Government Protests at OAS Over U.S. Threats

PA1708023089 Paris AFP in Spanish 2335 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, 16 Aug (AFP)—Panama protested against the United States at the OAS today over what it described as "grave and threatening" U.S. military operations carried out in the Panamanian capital city.

Jose Maria Cabrera, the Panamanian ambassador to the OAS, presented the protest when he referred to the military exercises carried out yesterday, Tuesday, in Panama City by the Marines who did sky jumps in downtown Panama City as part of an exercise called "Cold Duck."

The ambassador said that "the events that took place yesterday in the capital city of Panama are grave and threatening, as U.S. troops carried out a military operation in two sites of the capital."

He added that "these actions have no justification and are part of the continuous intimidation by the United States against Panama."

Meanwhile, James Todd, the U.S. alternate delegate to the OAS, answered the protest by saying that these are "routine exercises conducted inside the U.S. diplomatic premises."

The U.S. Government had explained that these exercises were to test the defense systems of its embassy and to "reaffirm and reassert" the U.S. rights in Panama.

COLINA Communique Rejecting U.S. Actions

PA1608201389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Aug 89 pp 1, B-4

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Excerpts] The National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) presented a proposal at the tripartite dialogue meeting held 14 August. The proposal reaffirmed that "imprudent U.S. military maneuvers must stop immediately" to propitiate a climate of trust and peace where the parties in conflict can find the road to solving Panama's political problems. [passage omitted]

Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, who represents the Executive Branch at the tripartite dialogue, stated that the U.S. Army's constant violations of Panama's territorial integrity was denounced at the meeting. [passage omitted]

The proposal presented by COLINA Leader Carlos Duque was not signed by the opposition because, according to Dr Bethancourt, the opposition will only sign a document that will present a solution to the national problem.

The following is the proposal presented by former COLINA Presidential Candidate Carlos Duque:

COMMUNIQUE

In an act of unity based on our true and common patriotic sentiments, the national tripartite dialogue participants consider it necessary to express their responsible opinion to the country about the latest events that have occured in our country related to the excessive and constant presence of U.S. Army, Naval, and Air Force troops.

We strongly reject the continuous U.S. military maneuvers. These maneuvers cause serious tension in the country and could lead to irreparable damage in the Panamanian society as the population's physical integrity is seriously and imminently threatened.

We regret that, based on a unilateral and mistaken interpretation of the canal treaties, the U.S. Army has indiscriminately seized streets, avenues, communities, and even public service installations. These actions have caused serious concern at all levels of national life as the population is aware that there is a possibility that a confrontation could occur. Such a confrontation will lead the Panamanian family to tears, pain, and mourning.

The dialogue's participants consider that these imprudent U.S. Army military maneuvers must stop immediately. It is not just, correct, logical, or moral for U.S. Army troops, which have the mission of protecting and defending the canal, to go beyond the limits of the canal agreements and unnecessarily create a climate of war and confrontation at the canal banks to the detriment of the Panamanian people while the dialogue participants are working to find ways to resolve their problems for the country's well-being. For the Executive Branch, Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt For ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance], Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, Guillermo Ford For COLINA, Carlos Duque Jaen, Ramon Sieiro, Aquilino Boyd

Endara on Dialogue Recess, Soares Arrival

PA1608234389 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2212 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Report by Maribel del Carmen Saldana Ortiz]

[Text] ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] leader Guillermo Endara Galimany said today that the OAS-sponsored dialogue has been adjourned until OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares arrives.

[Begin Endara recording] We spent almost the entire morning—not the entire morning—discussing the secondary issue of the so-called preventive impoundment of RPC Television and Radio. We asked for a recess until the OAS Secretary General arrives because we want to inform him of the conditions under which the dialogue is being held in Panama.

We are concerned over the noticeable deterioration of the rights of Panamanian citizens. In its 17 May resolution, the OAS asked that the sides—the government and political parties—abstain from taking steps that could worsen the situation. Before beginning the talks tomorrow, we must hold an in-depth discussion with Secretary General Soares. We will inform him of the increasing curtailment of Panamanians' rights, specifically their freedom of speech. [end recording]

Endara noted that so far no decision has been made to suspend the talks.

[Begin Endara recording] We have not made any decision on suspending or ending the dialogue. If we do make such a decision, we will immediately inform the people. On many occasions we have said—as we see it and as many others do too— that the stances taken by the sides are irreconcilable. That is why we insist on the plebiscite. Using General Manuel Antonio Noriega's words in a recent speech, we are proposing that they draft their proposal and we will draft ours so the people can choose between their proposal and ours. [end recording]

COLINA Reports on Dialogue

PA1708003789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2317 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The tripartite dialogue between COLINA [National Liberation Coalition], the government, and ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] was resumed this morning. Former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara was the moderator of the 3-hour meeting held at the OAS offices in the Vallarino Building.

On arrival, all parties said they were optimistic that the dialogue would yield positive results. Today, the proposals presented by COLINA, the opposition, and the Executive Branch were scheduled to be discussed separately. However, the discussions concluded without any substantial progress made when the opposition requested postponing the dialogue in order to discuss the Finance and Treasury's action on a $5 million tax evasion case against RPC Radio and Television. To this effect, COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen said the following:

[Begin recording] [Duque] The ADOC delegates to the OAS-sponsored dialogue requested a recess in today's meeting, 16 August, as a result of the impounding of RPC TV Channel 4 that was ordered by the Finance and Treasury Ministry because the abovementioned enterprise had a tax evasion case pending.

We, the COLINA representatives, were opposed to this request by ADOC, inasmuch as the Finance and Treasury Ministry accuses Channel 4 of evading taxes for approximately 5 million balboas. In other words, this is a tax issue that has nothing to do with the dialogue we are holding. The dialogue is solely for the purpose of reaching a great national agreement, seeking formulas of agreement among the political forces so that this

national agreement will lead to a government with broad participation and a government of national reconciliation.

[Unidentified reporter] How long will this recess last? The rest of the afternoon?

[Duque] No, in all sincerity, I must admit that ADOC has withdrawn its proposal and the dialogue continues. We must admit that ADOC withdrew its request for a recess and the dialogue continues. However, the threat of U.S. intervention and the U.S. Army South's maneuvers in the capital city jeopardize national sovereignty and independence and harm the efforts of conciliation and dialogue among the Panamanians. We cannot pretend that there is a dialogue while foreign troops storm sites in the capital city of the country and the United States threatens the Panamanian people with military intervention.

I want to stress the last point because point three of the 17 May OAS resolution asked the parties involved in the crisis to abstain from taking actions that could affect the dialogue. We must admit that ADOC, COLINA, and the Executive Branch have all respected this point. However, and even though it is not a party involved in the dialogue—yet it is the cause of the internal conflict—the U.S. Army, the U.S. Government has not respected that OAS agreement that was ratified and approved by the U.S. Government. We advised them [not further specified] of those violations. At no time have we threatened to withdraw or request a recess in view of the U.S. aggressions and constant harassments against the Panamanian people. [end recording]

OAS Secretary General Arrives

PA1708024389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0218 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Upon his arrival in Panama tonight [17 August], OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares said he hopes the government and the opposition will make up the "time lost" in the OAS-sponsored dialogue, which was once again suspended today.

"I have great hope that the parties will this time achieve formulas to reach a national agreement and that they will work hard and intensely to make up for the time lost," the OAS secretary general told the press.

Joao Baena Soares was welcomed by Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Norberta Tejada at the airport. [passage omitted]

Student Demonstrations in Panama City 16 Aug

PA1608214789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2050 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Secondary school students staged demonstrations today in Panama City protesting the closing of two schools on Monday by the government following demonstrations against the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and U.S. military maneuvers in Panama.

According to witnesses, the mediation of officials from the University of Panama kept the student protest from turning violent, and the FDP did not intervene to disperse the students.

The witnesses said that approximately 100 students from the Arts and Crafts School blocked a street, and, after it was cleared, the students threw rocks at a Spanish television cameraman who was filming the incidents, and at passing vehicles.

The students also erected barricades and shouted slogans against the government and the FDP.

Classes were resumed this week at various schools in the capital and other cities after they were suspended on 3 August due to rioting, which resulted in the death of one University of Panama student.

In a communique released this week, the Education Ministry warned that it will take the necessary "administrative, legal, and fiscal measures" to guarantee a complete academic year and announced that "schools where public order is disrupted" will be closed indefinitely.

Rioting Students Dispersed

PA1708001889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2338 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Panama Defense Forces [FDP] riot police today fired birdshot and tear gas to disperse a secondary school student protest in Panama City.

The students were protesting the closing of two schools by the government on Monday after disturbances in Colon, the country's second-largest city located 80 km north of the capital, where the students demonstrated against the FDP.

In an initial protest, which ended without the intervention of the FDP as a result of mediation by University of Panama authorities, the students this morning closed for 2 hours one of the city's main streets.

In the afternoon, Arts and Crafts School students again tried to erect barricades in the streets, but they were dispersed by riot police known as the "Dobermans." No injuries or arrests were reported.

Approximately 100 students today chanted slogans against the FDP and threw rocks at FDP members and at vehicles passing the school. [passage omitted]

Colon Rioting Continues

PA1708011089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2344 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] In spite of the Education Ministry's dispositions and the warnings by the Colon Provincial Education Directorate to prevent the closing of schools, the Abel Bravo School students today participated in violent actions on Colon's 5th Street, disrupting public order and damaging public and private property. In view of this situation, the Abel Bravo School principal has closed the school for an indefinite period of time while investigations are carried out.

The measure adopted by the education authorities realizes the urgent need to safeguard the lives of students and ensure the tranquillity of parents. Angel Lam, provincial education director, and Riccioti Emiliani, governor of Colon, tried to talk with the students to protect government and private property, ensure the students' safety, and prevent the closing of the school. However, all efforts were in vain, as the disorders took place anyway.

Once again, the Education Ministry urges the community to cooperate to prevent further school closings.

A last-minute report says that in view of the fact that the students from the Melchor Lasso de la Vega Arts and Crafts School [in Panama City] staged disturbances on Via Bolivar this afternoon and destroyed private vehicles, Guillermo Lay, the school's principal, has decided to suspend classes until further notice. The school will not be reopened as long as normal educational activities are not guaranteed.

Details of RPC Radio, TV Impoundment

PA1608162889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Aug 89 pp 1, 14

[Text] A highly reliable source yesterday described "as a precautionary measure" the steps taken by the Finance and Treasury Ministry to impound the assets and accounts of the Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion (RPC, Channel 4).

According to the source, the steps were taken to safeguard the interests of the state and those of RPC employees, because the steps are designed "to keep the station owners from recklessly squandering the funds."

It was said that the Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion owes the National Treasury approximately 5 million balboas in unpaid taxes, and that this figure does not include interest or fees for late payment.

The source said that according to article 7-37-A of the Fiscal Code, the measure taken by the Regional Tax Administration Office of Panama Province is entirely legal.

This article of the Fiscal Code says that "even when an appeal is still pending a ruling from the appropriate authorities, the treasury has the obligation to take precautionary measures when the taxpayer, using subterfuges, is attempting to keep from paying the taxes owed."

At 1800 on 15 August, RPC Television Channel 4 announced that both the Telcnoticias RPC newscast carried by RPC Television and the Cuestion de Minutos newscast carried by RPC Radio were being suspended for restructuring purposes. The Finance and Treasury Ministry has appointed Eduardo Perez Arias as the administrator of Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, Channel 4.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1504 GMT on 16 August carries a similar report that adds: "RPC sources have informed ACAN-EFE that the government administrator has appointed pro-government newsmen Rey Barria and Hernan Botello as the new directors of the RPC Radio network and of RPC Television Channel 4, respectively. Former directors Omayra De Leon and Julio Miller have been sent on vacation."]

Revenue Office on RPC Action

PA1708020589 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Communique issued by the Regional Revenues Administration, Panama Province—date not given]

[Text] 1. Taxpayer Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, S.A., [Panama City Circuito RPC Radio] has aired reports to the national and international public aimed at distorting the real facts regarding the legality of the measures adopted by this office in relation to unpaid taxes.

2. Legal limitations on Finance Ministry officials concerning the publication of information they possess as a result of their duties and responsibilities as public servants prevent the disclosure of specific details directly and specifically linked to Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, S.A.,—Article 722 of the Fiscal Code and Article 21 of Cabinet Decree 109 of 1970.

3. Despite the considerations expressed in the previous paragraph, this state agency must provide general explanations, based on its legal authority, justifying the preventive measures adopted to safeguard and protect the interests of our national treasury.

4. Articles 523, 535 and related articles in the Judicial Code, and Article 736-A of the fiscal code, not only authorize but oblige this office to adopt measures when it learns that taxpayers who are behind in their payments are conducting actions to declare themselves unable to pay in order to nullify any fiscal action. This must be done notwithstanding the fact that an appeal—filed in accordance with the guarantees of due process—is pending.

5. The measures adopted by this office in compliance with its responsibilities cannot and should not be interpreted as coercive measures of a political nature. On the

contrary, they are strictly of a legal nature and adopted in accordance with the national legal order and with all the guarantees established by the Constitution.

In this regard, the facts publicized by the taxpayer are exclusively aimed at securing the economic means to pay or meet overdue taxes.

In conclusion, we reiterate to our citizens our firm position of not making public the actions taken against specific taxpayers while always proceeding within the legal framework of due process.

[Signed] Luis O. Matheu, regional revenues administrator, Panama Province

'Special' Media Review on RPC

PA1608165189

[Editorial Report] The following is a special issuance of the Panama Media Review devoted to recent developments surrounding the operation of the Panama City Circuito RPC radio and television network.

Several actions by the Panamanian Government in the last 48 hours appear to have effectively silenced the Panama City Circuito RPC radio and television network as a source of independent reportage on domestic events. The Noriega regime has impounded the assets of RPC's parent company, Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, S.A, and has named a "judicial administrator trustee" to oversee network operations.

The "administrative restructuring" of Circuito RPC, as it was described by the new government administrator, Eduardo Perez Arias, leaves Panama City Telemetro (Channel 13) as the sole broadcast medium in the capital routinely covering opposition activities and pronouncements.

The first effect of the government takeover was the cancellation of the 15 August evening RPC radio and television newscasts. This measure was extended on 16 August when administrator Perez announced the cancellation of all radio and television newscasts for the day. RPC radio normally carries three daily newscasts with news briefs at the top of each hour while RPC television broadcasts a 30-minute newscast at noon and a 1-hour newscast in the early evening. As of 1500 GMT on 16 August, the newscasts have been replaced by music on RPC radio and entertainment programming on television.

The government "restructuring" of the network this week was not the first confrontation between the regime and RPC. On 11 August, RPC radio and television broadcasts were interrupted for 12 hours when Panama Defense Force (FDP) officials ordered that power to the network's transmitting site be shut off and that station personnel leave the premises. In April of this year, RPC was ordered by the General Directorate of Revenue (DGI) to pay approximately $5 million in back taxes. Although this ruling is still under appeal by RPC, the DGI cited the tax ruling as the reason for impounding the network's assets on Monday.

The pro-regime newspaper CRITICA today expanded on the DGI rationale, stating that the government action was a "precautionary measure" designed to protect RPC employees as well as government interests. CRITICA cited a source in the Finance and Treasury Ministry who explained that the steps were taken "to keep the station owners from recklessly squandering funds." The ministry source added that "the treasury has the obligation to take precautionary measures when the taxpayer, using subterfuges, is attempting to keep from paying taxes owed, even when an appeal is still awaiting a ruling from the appropriate authorities."

FBIS has monitored no Panamanian media commentary on the government's actions toward RPC. The government announcement concerning the impounding of network assets and the cancellation of 15 August newscasts was reported yesterday without comment by Panama City Telemetro television. RPC's provincial affiliate station in Chitre is following the programming of the Panama City flagship as are two affiliated FM stations in the capital.

Coup Plotter Released 'for Health Reasons'

PA1608165989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1615 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Captain Francisco Alvarez, 1 of the 18 officers detained last year for their alleged participation in a foiled attempt to depose Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega, was released recently, relatives of other imprisoned military men have reported.

Alvarez was released for health reasons through the efforts of Prosecutor General Carlos Villalaz, who is handling the cases of the military men accused of staging a coup against Noriega, and detained on 16 March 1988.

Alvarez' relatives, who reported the captain's release from Renacer prison near Panama City, said the officer was suffering from "physical and mental disorders" as the result of his prolonged stay in prison and "the way he was treated."

Before he was released, Alvarez was visited by a team of military doctors and psychiatrists, the sources added.

One colonel, seven majors, three captains, one lieutenant, two sublieutenants, and three sergeants, all allegedly involved in the attempted coup against Noriega, are still being held at Renacer and other prisons.

More on Opposition Leaders News Conference

PA1608152989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Report on statements by Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, former vice presidential candidates of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, in Panama City during a news conference on 12 August upon returning from a South American tour]

[Text] Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, leaders of the Panamanian political opposition, arrived in Panama this weekend. They granted a news conference on 12 August to report about their recent tour.

The former vice presidential candidates of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance recently traveled to South America to meet with the presidents and foreign ministers of Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru to brief them on problems currently facing our country.

Upon returning to Panama, the opposition politicians told the national and international press that Presidents Carlos Andres Perez, Virgilio Barco, and Alan Garcia expressed their full support to the opposition alliance. They also pointed out that they discussed three important dates in Panama's political calendar during their meetings with the presidents: 23 August, when the OAS [mission to Panama] is scheduled to submit another report on the Panamanian tripartite dialogue; 1 September, when there should be a transfer of power in our country; and 31 December, when the new Panama Canal administrator, who will be a Panamanian for the first time, will be installed.

[Begin recording] [Arias] They all shared similar views. First, they are fully aware that Panama's main problem involves a conflict between dictatorship and democracy. None of them harbors any doubts that this is the country's main problem.

Second, they all are clearly aware that the people's sovereignty and national sovereingty are inseparable concepts. They believe that only a free people can be genuinely sovereign. One of them even publicly said—and that is why I will identify him—President Alan Garcia said that national sovereignty can under no circumstances be identified with a man in uniform. He said that national sovereignty rests on a free people. Although Garcia said this, all the other presidents shared this view.

Third, all of them believe that the main obstacle to the achievement of democracy in Panama and the preservation of people's sovereignty and national sovereignty as a single entity is General Manuel Antonio Noriega. None of them believes that it is possible to overcome the serious crisis facing the Panamanian people without the departure of Gen Noriega in one way or another.

[Ford] We aim to Latinize our position and obtain the support of these Latin American democracies as we have from other European and Asian democracies. [end recording]

Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon also commented on statements made by Gen Noriega on 11 August regarding a plebiscite proposed by the opposition:

[Begin Arias recording] We took note of the fact that he is also talking about a plebiscite. Therefore, it would be very feasible to organize a plebiscite in which they draft their proposal in their own terms and we draft our proposal in our own terms and then let the Panamanian people choose between them.

We believe that Gen Noriega is afraid of the Panamanian people. However, if this is not true, he should accept the plebiscite challenge. He could draft his own proposal in his own terms and we could draft our proposal in our terms and then allow the Panamanian people to judge between the two, because they are the only ones called to make the decision. [end recording]

Canal Administrator Sees 'Difficult Future'

PA1608231189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Report by Antonio Martinez]

[Text] Panama City, 15 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal, has said that the waterway, which today commemorates its 75th anniversary, faces a difficult future because of the political confrontation between Panama and the United States, the slow increase in traffic, and the competition posed by alternate means of transportation.

During an interview, Manfredo told ACAN-EFE: "The canal's economic future is not very promising. As the result of changes in trade and transportation standards, the traffic increase in the next 20 years will be minimal, as opposed to between 7 and 10 percent in some previous years."

Manfredo, who holds an executive post in the canal administration, added: "This growth will not suffice to cover inflation increases and salary raises as stipulated by law, and it will be necessary to periodically adjust tolls. These adjustments will have to be very low to avoid harming the canal's weak competitiveness."

He also pointed out that this minimal anticipated toll increase of between 1.5 and 2 percent has already had to be adjusted downwards. It had been estimated that 190.4 million tons of cargo would pass through the canal in the fiscal year of 1989, but this figure had to be trimmed to 188.1 million tons.

Even worse, traffic could even be reduced in the future "if the canal becomes less efficient, if the current political situation continues for a longer time, and if toll increases are too high or too frequent," Manfredo also said.

Manfredo, second in command after U.S. General Dennis McAuliffe, said the canal's efficiency and competitiveness have been affected and could deteriorate as the result of the political crisis in Panama and the U.S. Government's sanctions against this country to force General Manuel Antonio Noriega out of his post as Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander.

Manfredo told ACAN-EFE: "The canal must be removed from the political controversy." The deterioration of the bilateral relations has constantly been provoking military incidents and putting the two armies on the verge of a confrontation.

The ratification of Panamanian parliamentarian [title as received] Carlos Duque, who was chosen by the Panamanian Assembly to hold the post of canal administrator in 1990, is also doubtful.

The deputy administrator recalled that the waterway "operated very successfully and reached the highest traffic and efficiency levels" just after the Canal treaties, signed by then-U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian General Omar Torrijos in 1977, was enacted in 1979.

At the time, he added, "a harmonious relationship between Panama and the United States seemed to indicate that the causes of the conflict between the two countries had disappeared."

But quite the opposite was true. Since 1987, "the relations have become tense, the mutual accusations of treaty violations occur daily, and the Panama Canal Commission's board of directors has been meeting without the presence of the Panamanian representatives."

Manfredo added: As a reaction to this deterioration, "bills and draft resolutions proposing to rescind or amend the treaties were introduced in the U.S. Congress."

Manfredo told ACAN-EFE that in the United States there have always been "hawks" who oppose the treaties and the delivery of the canal to Panama, which the Torrijos-Carter treaties stipulate should take place at noon on 31 December 1999.

These "hawks," who also oppose the pullout of U.S. troops from Panama on that date, have found in the Panamanian political crisis, which has not been resolved in 2 years, the necessary arguments for reinforcing their position, Manfredo added. The deputy administrator is very pessimistic about the possibility of an agreement being reached between the opposing sides in the country.

Manfredo also told the news agency: "I do not anticipate any solution of the political problem in Panama because the stances of the two sides, the government and the opposition, are utterly irreconcilable."

In addition, the economic sanctions imposed by Washington, which include withholding and embargoing the income taxes of Panamanian Panama Canal employees, which the administration should have delivered to the Panama Finance Ministry, have provoked instability and labor conflicts.

Manfredo warned that a strike or other forcible labor action, "however justifiable in the light of the harm suffered by workers, would inevitably result in a permanent diversion of cargo and ships to other routes or means of transportation."

Manfredo told ACAN-EFE that the canal is increasingly less competitive.

Referring to the route around Cape Horn in South America, which entails a detour of 3,000 nautical miles, Manfredo said: "The Panama Canal no longer holds its monopoly of previous decades, when the only alternative was a longer and more costly route."

Another problem that the canal must face in the future is the users' mistrust because of the increasing control of the waterway by the Panamanian Government.

When the treaties were implemented in 1979, "many customers thought the new relationship between Panama and the United States would result in a deterioration of the quality of the services offered by inexperienced persons."

This mistrust also prompted the U.S. Government, during Ronald Reagan's administration, to lift restrictions in force for decades for alternate means of transportation through the U.S. territory.

These surface routes, or "dry bridges," have already become considerably competitive with the Panama Canal, particularly considering that nearly two-thirds of the cargo passing through the canal originates in or moves toward a U.S. port. Forty percent of the canal traffic handles cargo moving from the East Coast of the United States to the Far East.

Manfredo finally pointed out that political problems have resulted in greater U.S. congressional control over the Canal Administration's investments, thus jeopardizing the waterway's maintenance and eventual expansion and improvement.

In addition, the studies to expand the canal or construct a sea-level canal, which have been conducted by a Panamanian-Japanese-U.S. commission for a number of years with no significant progress, are paralyzed. The only competition Manfredo is not afraid of is that of a possible new canal through Nicaragua. "I think such an

idea is unrealistic. I think the Nicaraguan Government is doing such studies to give their people some hope," Manfredo said.

Argentina

Reportage on Start of Negotiations With UK

Garcia del Solar To Begin Talks

PY1608144489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1414 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (NA)—It has been officially reported that at 1200 [1500 GMT] today the Argentine Foreign Ministry will issue a communique to announce the appointment of Ambassador Lucio Garcia del Solar as a special representative to start negotiations with Great Britain.

Talks To Set Agenda Begin 16 Aug

PY1608152889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1512 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (NA)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry has officially announced in a communique that Argentine and British representatives will meet in New York on 16 and 17 August to establish the conditions and the agenda to resume direct talks between the two countries.

Herewith the text of the communique:

"It has been agreed that Ambassador Lucio del Solar, the Argentine Government's special representative; and Sir Crispin Tickell, the British permanent representative at the United Nations, will meet today, 16 August; and tomorrow, 17 August, in New York.

"The meeting—which will not affect either party's sovereignty claims over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands—will seek to establish conditions and the agenda for direct talks between Argentina and the United Kingdom."

Menem on Reestablishing Relations

PY1608210389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem today stressed that Argentina and Great Britain are "willing to reestablish relations" that were broken in 1982 during the military conflict over the Malvinas Islands.

Menem said that both the Argentine and the British Governments want to reestablish bilateral relations and that "it is always possible to take a step forward in the area of international relations."

Menem made these remarks to journalists upon arriving at Government House this morning. Menem was accompanied by metropolitan Mayor Carlos Grosso, with whom he had earlier inaugurated a garbage removal program during a ceremony at the corner of Mayo Avenue and Bernardo de Irigoyen Street.

Asked whether the repatriation of the ashes of Brigadier General Juan Manuel de Rosas would be on the agenda during the first stage of the bilateral negotiations, Menem explained that "Buenos Aires Province has already approved a law, and we will take the appropriate measures to repatriate the ashes of the great leader."

On another topic, Menem noted that he is "stubbornly optimistic" about the inflation rate and believes that it will sharply decrease in the next few months. He justified his opinion by saying that "now more than ever I am sure it will decrease because I see that Argentina has begun to undergo a transformation and change its structures. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks

PY1708032289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Argentina and Great Britain have begun the official process of direct negotiations on the Malvinas Islands.

This announcement was made by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo in a communique that says that the UN representatives of the two countries met today and will meet again tomorrow in New York. This is what Cavallo said:

[Begin recording] This is the beginning of the formal process of negotiations with Great Britain. As I have said, in previous meetings we only had exchanges of ideas, informal talks, but it was predictable that we could reach a formal exchange of not only ideas but proposals. In order to make proposals we must meet, and the first meeting was held today. [end recording]

Minister Cavallo explained that the next step will be toward important progress in bilateral relations and will include decisions by the two countries. He said: We are not willing to make unilateral decisions, but we are willing to include the formal cessation of hostilies if there are decisions of the same nature on the British side. He added that it is possible that diplomatic relations with the British could be reestablished by late this year.

Supreme Court Orders Release of Retired General

PY1608191989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1627 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (TELAM)—The Supreme Court today ordered the release of Brigadier General Jose Luis Sexton, retired, who stood trial in the "Albanessi" and "Filippi" cases.

This information was released by the Army General Staff, which also reported that a senior officer was sent to the place where Sexton remained in custody to inform him about the Supreme Court decision.

CNEA Held Responsible for Inactive Mine

PY1608174089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1326 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Cordoba, 16 Aug (NA)—The Sanchez Granel Company is holding the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) responsible for the paralyzation of the activities at the Los Gigantes mine, stating that the CNEA owes the Sanchez Granel Company 500 million australs in work certificates to July 1989.

Jorge Armando Berisso, the deputy manager of the Los Gigantes mining complex, added that the Sanchez Granel Company has been asking the CNEA to expand the deposit's exploration program in order to assess the available reserves but that, so far, the necessary funds have not been forthcoming.

Berisso denied that the Sanchez Granel Company is trying to justify the possible removal of the facilities at which the raw nuclear fuel that is used in the Embalse and Atucha nuclear power plants is extracted.

The Los Gigantes mining complex has been virtually paralyzed since last June. This has forced the Mineworkers Labor Association to demand the government's intervention in order to solve the situation of 150 Sanchez Granel Company workers.

Cordoba Province legislators have presented a draft statement in which the CNEA is asked "to immediately approach the problem and seek the best solutions so that the national atomic program will not be affected."

In addition, the legislators warned that if work is not resumed at Los Gigantes—the world's lowest grade ore deposit—in the mid-term, the fuel reserves for the operation of the nuclear power plants could be depleted and thus aggravate the energy crisis.

Concerning the uranium deposit's reserves, it has been explained that the (low grade) ore in the Los Gigantes deposit has diminished from 290 grams per ton of rock to 150 grams.

Bolivia

Minister Terms U.S. Antidrug Aid 'Insufficient'

PY1608173289 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Aug 89 p 6

[Excerpts] Bolivian Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco yesterday said that the United States is providing little economic and technical aid to help fight drug trafficking in Bolivia. He added that the U.S. Government aid is much lower than had been allocated to control drug trafficking in New York.

Capobianco made this statement following a protocol meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Robert Gelbard at the Interior Ministry yesterday afternoon.

Capobianco said: "There is no relation between the money the U.S. Government spends to control drug trafficking in a single U.S. city and the fund it allocates to support the antidrug struggle in Bolivia."

The budget earmarked to control the drug trade in New York amounts to $599 million, and according to official reports, the U.S. aid to support the antidrug struggle in Bolivia is between $11 and $15 million per year, an amount that is not enough to challenge the economic power of drug traffickers [passage omitted]

This morning, after installing Social Defense Ministry Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico, Capobianco—a member of the Nationalist Democratic Action Party—said that drug trafficking affects political and socioeconomic sectors. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on Continuation of IMF Talks

PY1608172389 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, Finance Minister David Blanco said that the government will continue the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that there are some points pending prior to signing a new agreement with the IMF.

Blanco also reported that the accounts of the state institutions will remain frozen, in keeping with the current policy of austerity.

Noting the fiscal discipline implemented by the former administration, the minister said: "We will remain inflexible."

Officials in the economic area of the former administration have pointed out that a draft agreement with the IMF, which needed to be confirmed by the new administration, has already been defined.

The goals of the new agreement include the need to keep the yearly inflation rate below 10 percent, to keep the international reserves at an "appropriate" level, to reduce the fiscal deficit to no more than 4 percent of the GDP, and to seek to improve the economy by a higher percentage than the natural increase in population.

Regarding the accounts freeze, Blanco explained that the government has decided that the administration of the state's funds will remain austere.

The former administration ordered a freeze on the accounts of the state institutions because of the restricted funds of the Treasury General of the Nation [Tesoro General de la Nacion] as a result of Argentina's overdue payments for Bolivian natural gas.

Argentina's estimated total debt exceeds $200 million.

MIR, ADN Create Joint Political Council

PY1608125989 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Aug 89 p 5

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Deputy Gaston Encinas made it clear that the political council [Consejo Politico] that

comprises the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] is working to support and strengthen the government of national unity, but it is not part of the state.

Encinas will be the MIR-new majority bloc leader in the Chamber of Deputies. He has reported that the political council, which is chaired by [ADN leader] General Hugo Banzer Suarez, also includes Oscar Eid Franco, Gonzalo Valda, and Guillermo Capobianco for the MIR; and Guillermo Fortun, Antonio Ormachea, Carlos Iturralde and Willy Vargas for the ADN.

Encinas said that, after long meetings, this political council agreed that the executive branch will be integrated and mutually responsible [corresponsable] with the full and equal participation of the two parties.

"We have defined the areas that will correspond to each party in the operation of the executive branch by determining all the posts, going from under secretary to executive director of every state institution," Encinas said.

Deputy Encinas also reported that "substantial" progress has been made concerning the functions of the political council, whose goal is to coordinate all the ministries within the executive branch, and coordinate the tasks of the executive branch with the legislative branch, and the tasks of the latter branches with the judicial branch. [passage omitted]

BANZER

Hugo Banzer has reported that the political council will seek "to reconcile" the economic programs of the participative convergence [convergencia participativa] and the MIR. He said that this bipartisan council will monitor the economic policy in order to guarantee economic stability.

Banzer said that the political council members are especially trying to determine similar programs and overcome disagreements in order to harmonize the decisions made within the executive branch.

FAL-ZW Linked to Drug Traffic, Palestinians

PY1608230289 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 p 7

[Text] La Paz, 11 Aug (ANF)—According to classified reports obtained by ANF [Fides News Agency], the narcoterrorists' threat to unleash new acts of violence in urban and rural areas in Bolivia could become one of the new government's main problems.

According to those reports, military and state security investigations are uncovering more and more evidence of a relationship between the "Zarate Willka Armed Forces of Liberation" (FAL-ZW) and drug trafficking groups in which the traffickers have reportedly provided the terrorists with weapons and economic support for terrorist attacks.

The reports claim that the objective of the drug traffickers is to unleash chaos, confusion, and violence in the country in an effort to guarantee that their criminal actions go unpunished.

Thus an illegitimate ideological-criminal alliance has reportedly been established, seriously jeopardizing the peace and tranquility of the country.

The arrest of some alleged members of the "FAL-ZW" by the police has reportedly provided some important evidence on the scope of the association between the terrorists and drug trafficking groups in carrying out joint terrorist attacks.

The reports provided to "ANF" indicate that he police and military intelligence services have uncovered eight cells of the "Zarate Willka" group in Bolivian cities. However, the members of each cell do not know the members of other cells.

The most alarming report is that there are indications of a relationship between this group and organizations in the Chapare region. This is the main link in establishing the relationship between this group and the drug traffickers operating in an area where coca leaves are produced and where there are hundreds of cocaine factories.

In addition to the financial support the FAL-ZW is reportedly receiving from drug traffickers, the police also have evidence of connections to Palestinian organizations, according to documents seized from the detainees.

Minister To Reconsider Armed Forces' Role

PY1708003189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Hector Hormachea has revealed that the Armed Forces have asked to be withdrawn from the struggle against drug trafficking because that mission has the direct participation of the police.

Ormachea explained that the Armed Forces' role in drug control will be evaluated by the government and military chiefs before a final decision is made.

Ormachea made these comments during his first news conference to talk about the various issues related to his ministry.

He added that the Navy and the Air Force currently carry out a support mission in the struggle against drug trafficking, as the entire task is carried out by the Mobil Units for Rural Areas (UMOPAR), which are under the Police.

In his first week as the new minister, Ormachea held preliminary talks with several military chiefs to get familiar with the Armed Forces' role in controlling drug trafficking.

He said: "We must carefully study and evaluate the situation to determine the Armed Forces' degree of participation in the struggle against drug trafficking."

He said that the Armed Forces wanted to withdraw from the struggle against drug trafficking when it initially began, but they then decided to carry out a support mission. He added: We are going to study this at the government level, with the president making the final decision on the role of the Armed Forces.

Ormachea also said that internal security is closely linked to how the Armed Forces are equipped, but also to the development of the country, especially in the poorest zones and border areas.

He said that there has been talk lately about terrorist activities, although the reports have not been very clear. There were apparently incursions by unidentified armed groups, murder, and other activities that may jeopardize the country's internal security.

Ormachea said that internal security and national sovereignty will continue to be the Armed Forces' main concern.

Regarding the presence of foreign military advisors involved in the struggle against drug trafficking, Ormaechea noted that "that work will be useful as long as it does not interfere with the work of Bolivian organizations."

He concluded by saying that changing the previous defense ministry's policy of administrative centralization of economic resources is a positive step. [passage omitted]

New Defense Under Secretary Installed

PY1708005389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 17 Aug 89

[Summary] Division General Rolando Arzabe Claverles has been installed as defense under secretary.

National Banks Recover $6 Million in Deposits

PY1608163189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Aug 89 p 4

[Excerpt] The national financial system recovered nearly $6 million in bank deposits between 8 and 9 August.

This statement was made by Jaime Gutierrez, new president of the Bolivian Association of Private Banks (ASOBAN). Gutierrez said the figures show a return of public confidence in our economy.

According to Gutierrez, people are redepositing their money in local banks at a more rapid rate than expected and banks expect to recover the preelection levels within 2 or 3 months.

Gutierrez said that the increase in deposits is due to the public's renewed confidence in the country's financial system, the respectability of Paz Zamora's cabinet, and the government's first economic measures. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet Resumes Activities at Government House

PY1608215089 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet today resumed his activities at Government House under doctor's orders to avoid a heavy workload until 22 August. [passage omitted]

The president arrived at Government House at 0700 and this morning met with several assistants. He also met with Augusto Ramirez, director of the UN program for Latin American and Caribbean development, with the secretary general of the Presidency, and with the interior minister. The president went to Parque Cerrillos Hall around noon to open the fifth meeting of exporters.

It was confirmed that the new members of the cabinet will be sworn in tomorrow, probably at noon. The ceremony had been scheduled for today but was postponed because of the president's busy agenda.

Colombian Education Minister Visits Fifth Region

PY1608021689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombian Education Minister Manuel Francisco Becerra and his Chilean counterpart Rene Salame are visiting the Fifth Region to evaluate the Chilean educational process. The visitor wants to observe the performance of Chile's decentralized education system, which has received so much praise within UNESCO. [passage omitted]

Poll Indicates Decline in Buchi's Popularity

PY1708015589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] According to the latest poll conducted by the Center for Contemporary Studies (CERC), the public's support for presidential candidate Hernan Buchi has experienced yet another decline, by 4 to 7 percentage points.

According to CERC Director Carlos Huneuus, the poll was conducted from 21 to 29 July; the results indicated that 28.3 percent of the people support Buchi, compared to the 35.3 percent registered in early July—the so-called openly expressed votes [voto expresso].

[Begin Huneuus recording] We have conducted a detailed poll. It is only appropriate to say that one 7-percent decline has occurred in the openly expressed votes for Mr Hernan Buchi. There are also votes that are not openly expressed for Mr Hernan Buchi—votes expressed in a different way—that we must include as expressing support for him.

You can see on chart no 13 that the willingness to vote for Mr Hernan Buchi has declined in July—in early July—from 35.3 percent to 28.7 percent, that is, 7 percentage points.

Considering that these are not openly expressed votes, this is not a very sharp decline, and the willingness to vote for Mr Hernan Buchi remains at 32.6 percent.

We must consider the fact that this problem of not openly expressed votes occurs under different situations. This happened to us during the 1988 plebiscite, when a large percentage of yes-voters refused to say in the polls that they would support the yes vote but actually voted yes in the plebiscite. [end recording]

According to Huneuus, voter support for Buchi at the end of July, when his candidacy had already been registered, was 32.6 percent. This figure includes the voters who refused to disclose their preferences. At the same time, Patricio Aylwin, the candidate of the coalition of parties for democracy, had the support of 53.8 percent of the voters. This figure was only 0.1 percent smaller than the figure from the previous poll.

The poll appraised the voter support for either Aylwin or Buchi, whose candidacies had already been announced, but ignored the candidacies of Mockeberg and Errazuriz in order to avoid distortion of the results, Huneuus explained.

[Begin Huneuus recording] I want to reiterate that this poll was conducted at a time when only Aylwin and Buchi had proclaimed their candidacies and begun their political campaigns. Mr Francisco Javier Errazuriz and Dr Mockeberg registered later, and at that time they were not engaged in major political campaign actions. We believed that if we had included them in the poll it would have resulted in inaccurate figures about them, thus invalidating the investigation. Any future poll, obviously, will include all candidates. [end recording]

Regarding the substantial decrease in the number of voters who have openly expressed their support for Buchi, the poll concluded that this was a consequence of the discontinuation of his campaign after he agreed to run for president. The CERC also noted that another reason for this decrease might be the campaign style implemented by the independent group who supports Buchi. This command is made up of people who have no experience in electoral campaigns.

The poll has provided nationwide results; 1,960 people were polled in the first 10 regions of the country. This number corresponds to 98.13 percent of this area's urban population [not further specified].

Construction of Thermonuclear Plant Under Study

PY1608144889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1916 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Santiago, 15 Aug (EFE)—General Herman Brady, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, has said that Chile may build a thermonuclear plant to meet the increasing demand of electricity.

During a news conference, Brady said that the construction of a thermonuclear plant, which has already been analyzed on various occasions, is technically feasible but will depend on available financial resources.

Brady was accompanied by Richard Kennedy, U.S. ambassador-at-large for nonproliferation, who will end his official visit to Chile today.

Kennedy said that the United States might support the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Chile.

Kennedy added that "the U.S. Government is providing some support to Chile. Proof of this is the fact that Chilean students are taking advanced studies in the United States."

Reportage on Terrorist Bombings 15-16 Aug

Explosions in Downtown Santiago

PY1509185589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Santiago, 15 Aug (EFE)—Several terrorist attacks causes considerable property damage and slightly wounded two persons a few hours ago, while Carabineros reported that one of its patrols engaged in a shoot-out with members of the outlawed Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] terrorist group.

Today a dawn a group of unidentified people planted a bomb in Las Condes District at the statue of General Carol Unzua, the former Santiago mayor who died in a terrorist attack on 30 August 1983.

A bomb exploded in downtown Santiago a little later, seriously damaging an office of the National Renewal Party, which is presided over by Sergio Onofre Jarpa. The explosion injured a father and son who were passing by, but according to hospital sources they are now out of danger.

At about the same time another explosion damaged a private television studio in downtown Santiago where the Catholic University of Chile records its television programs.

In this same area 2 weeks ago a guard shot a Socialist Party member who was painting a political slogan on a wall.

Furthermore, Carabineros—the Chilean militarized police—reported that today a dawn a police patrol clashed with FPMR members as they were painting a slogan on a wall.

The clash took place in the La Victoria slum, south of Santiago, one of the main centers of rebellion against the Pinochet dictatorship since 1983.

According to the report, the FPMR members hurled two firecrackers and a Molotov cocktail at the Carabineros and then fled.

Urban Districts Report Incidents

PY1608140889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Report by Oscar Benito Rebolledo from downtown Santiago]

[Text] Three explosive devices have been planted by terrorists—who always remain in hiding—in various districts of Santiago.

The first bomb was planted in the offices of a neighborhood committee—the neighborhood committees obviously bother the terrorists—at 11981 Tucapel Street in the 30 de Mayo shantytown of La Cisterna District. Damage and broken windows were caused.

The second bombing involved a street lamp post—street lamp posts also bother the terrorists—near the [name indistinct] clinic. The bomb knocked down the street lamp post. This occurred in Cerro Navia District.

The third bombing involved another street lamp post—which also bothered the terrorists—on F Street [words indistinct].

This information was supplied by the police. No one was detained. The unidentified individuals [words indistinct]. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Blackouts Result in Concepcion

PY1608142089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Two bombs exploded last night in the Fifth Region.

The first bomb exploded shortly after 2100. It damaged the granite base of the British Arch on Brazil Avenue in the port of Valparaiso. The bomb exploded loudly, causing concern in the neighborhood.

The second bomb exploded ar 2302 in the Recreo Alto District of Vina del Mar.

No reports were issued on victims or the magnitude of the damage.

In Concepcion, terrorists have caused several blackouts. According to a local radio station, the blackouts were caused by MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] militants.

It has been reported that the attacks are part of a sabotage plot against public utility companies and public property.

The attacks affected a promenade in Concepcion. No victims were reported.

Colombia

Criminal Court Judge Shot; Condition 'Critical'

PA1708022389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0059 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] A few minutes ago, there was an attempt on the life of Carlos Ernesto Valencia Garcia, superior criminal court judge of Bogota. He is in charge of the investigations of the deaths of Guillermo Cano, director of the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, and Jaime Pardo Leal, the president of the Patriotic Union. At this time, he and one of his bodyguards are receiving medical attention at the San Pedro Claver clinic.

We have received a report from Diana Montoya from the scene of the attack in downtown Bogota.

[Begin recording] [Montoya] Judge Valencia Garcia was shot a few minutes ago here on 13th Street and 16th Avenue. [passage omitted]

[Montoya] Judge Valencia Garcia was apparently traveling home when he was intercepted by four individuals on two motorcycles. They fled after the attack toward western Bogota. [end recording]

The doctors treating Judge Valencia Garcia have said that he is in critical condition after being shot three times in the head.

Judge Valencia Garcia Dies

PA1708042089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0348 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 16 Aug (EFE) — Superior Criminal Court Judge Carlos Valencia Garcia died after he was shot today near downtown Bogota by two men traveling on motorcycles, police sources reported. Two members of the judge's escort, members of the secret police, were wounded during the attack, the sources added. The attack took place at approximately 1845 (local time) (2345 GMT) at the intersection of two very crowded avenues.

The judge, 45 years old, married, and the father of three children, was investigating the assassinations of EL ESPECTADOR Director Guillermo Cano, perpetrated in December 1986, and of Jaime Pardo Leal, former president and founder of the left-wing Patriotic Union, killed on 11 October 1987. Kingpins from the drug trafficking Medellin Cartel and from far right-wing armed organizations were involved in these two crimes.

Ecuador

Diego Cordovez To Visit Panama 17 Aug

PA1708013489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0036 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Quito, 16 Aug (DPA)—Diego Cordovez, the chief of the OAS mediation mission, will make an unexpected

visit to Panama tomorrow and begin immediately on the fifth stage of his effort, just 2 weeks from the deadline for a change of government.

Cordovez' trip, which had not been previously announced, was confirmed tonight (local time) by Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry sources who anticipate that the mediator will be in Panama in the early afternoon hours of Thursday.

So far, there has not been any announcement about the three other members of the OAS mediation commission—the foreign ministers of Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago as well as the OAS secretary general—traveling to Panama.

Cordovez, who is also the Ecuadoran foreign minister, says he is optimistic about the possibility of reaching a negotiated solution to the Panamanian political crisis, which was unleashed by the decision of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime to annul the 7 May presidential elections.

The term of the current leader, Manuel Solis Palma, will conclude on 31 August, and a new administration should therefore begin in Panama on 1 September.

Paraguay

Argentine Official Arrives To Discuss Integration

PY1608222289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Aug 89 p 13

[Text] Raul Carignano, Argentine secretary for Latin American affairs, arrived at Silvio Pettirossi International Airport this morning. He is scheduled to meet with several Paraguayan officials. Upon his arrival, Carignano said: "We are visiting in a spirit of integration. We no longer want to talk about cooperation between Paraguay and Argentina; we want to talk about integration, because the time has come for people and governments to understand that the possibility of common growth is within the framework of political and economic integration."

He added: "The first talks will be held today, and this will probably lead to a meeting between Presidents Rodriguez and Menem."

When asked about the main points to be discussed with Paraguayan officials, Carignano said: "We are here to discuss an agenda in which each country has priorities. We are here to talk about energy, oil, free ports, and all the things the two countries want to accomplish. We are here in the spirit of finding solutions."

Regarding the possibility of discussions on the Puerto Zarate issue, he said: "All the issues that Paraguay wants to discuss will be discussed. We also believe that Paraguay is interested in the issues we want to discuss."

When asked if Argentina would be able to support the recovery of the Puerto Zarate facilities and the possibilities in this regard, he said: "Paraguay does not need Argentine support. We are going to do whatever Paraguay and Argentina want to do together on any issue."

Former Consul Says Army Trying To Kidnap Him

PY1608191289 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Aug 89 p 5

[By correspondent Roque Gonzalez Vera]

[Excerpt] Geneva—Gustavo Gramont Berres, the former Paraguayan consul in Switzerland, has sent a note to the UN Human Rights Center charging that he has received kidnap threats. In his note, Gramont says that he received anonymous calls from an alleged Paraguayan Army commando group, which reportedly consists of highly trained officers in high-risk operations.

Despite the fact that this information has not been officially reported, unnofficial Swiss police sources state that everything seems to indicate that it is a mere maneuver by Gramont to obtain political asylum and to enable him to remain in Swiss territory. As soon as he finished his diplomatic mission he should have left the country, but it is obvious that Gramont wants to stay in Switzerland and to do that he must obtain political asylum. The alleged threats he reported to the Swiss authorities are the first step to requesting political asylum.

In order to remain in Switzerland, Gramont leveled serious charges against the Paraguayan Government and Paraguayan Army officers. The note was attached to the Paraguayan general file.

In his note, Gramont also reasserts that 2 months ago he met an intelligence officer of the I Corps, who even showed him his credentials of a Paraguayan officer. This time, he said, he was requested $50,000 in exchange for not being disturbed in the future.

Gramont went to the Human Rights Center and handed his letter to the secretary of Ian Martenson, director of the UN Human Rights Center. At that time the note became confidential but an ABC COLOR correspondent in Geneva obtained information about it. [passage omitted]

Peru

President To Speak on Debt at United Nations

PY1608142889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox today announced that President Alan Garcia will go to the United Nations to speak on the foreign debt, drug trafficking, and terrorism. Larco Cox also talked about the Group of Eight meeting in Lima:

[Begin recording] [Cox] President Garcia has decided to speak at the United Nations to evaluate the result of his proposals on those issues that were presented before the same forum at the beginning of his term.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the Group of Eight meeting in Lima later this year?
[Cox] We will have two meetings in Lima during October. First the meeting of foreign ministers of the Mechanism of Consultation and Rapprochement, known as the Group of Eight, and that will be followed by the meeting of the presidents of the Group of Eight in Lima, beginning 9 October. The agenda is complete and now we are working on the document that was prepared after our talks at the presidential, ministerial, and technical levels. This document was carefully worded so as to be complementary to the previous declarations of Acapulco and Punta del Este, particularly regarding our goal of strengthening the Mechanism of Consultation and Rapprochment. [end recording]

Garcia on Military Courts for Terrorists

PY1608181189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0257 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Address to the nation by Peruvian President Alan Garcia; time and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. The electoral campaign is now underway. Ten candidates are in the running for the Lima mayoralty. We must participate in the elections to preserve democracy in our country.

However, the electoral atmosphere that prevails should not make us forget our most serious problem, the greatest threat to our fatherland. This threat is terrorism which costs lives, inflicts economic harm, fosters insecurity, and cuts off the power that we need for our homes and our industries.

We continue to battle terrorism. The Armed Forces and the national police are taking drastic action in the Huallaga Valley and in the mountain ranges. They are also breaking up urban terrorist cells. However, we must also attack terrorists through legal actions, through the most drastic and severe sentences.

Irrespective of military actions, if no swift and drastic legal punishment is meted, the terrorists know that they will go unpunished. Stimulated by this they continue with their crimes.

The whole country is aware of this. Most Peruvians want severe, drastic and effective punishment for terrorists. Thus, on 28 July I proposed to the national Congress that the military courts should try terrorists. Tonight, I would like to remind you of this subject because I am concerned that it may remain just that; a proposal. I would also like to ask all Peruvians, all organizations and institutions, to support this request which will be discussed in Congress. By having terrorists tried by military courts we are not giving up any civilian prerogatives. We are not giving up any democratic rights. This has been done before in other democratic countries.

Furthermore, the Armed Forces are an essential component of Peru's democratic system. They are also the ones that actually fight the battle against subversion. No one can say that setting up military courts is tantamount to militarizing the country because that would imply distrusting the Armed Forces, offending them and overlooking the fact that they are defending democracy. More than 2 years ago we asked for and were allowed to establish special courts to terrorist cases. So far these courts have yielded no positive results. Thus, as president it is my duty to call for severe sentences, issued without delay or any theoretical or academic discussions.

Following my 28 July speech I ascertained that the vast majority of Peruvians are in favor of drastic punishments and of the establishment of military courts. I have also heard some legal objections and theoretical arguments against this measure.

Those who do not want the military courts to try terrorists say that Article 282 of the Constitution does not allow it. This is half true. Article 282 states: In cases of crimes committed while on duty, police and Armed Forces members are subject to the military jurisdiction and to the military code of justice which is not applicable to civilians except in the case described by Article 235, which establishes the application of the death sentence in case of betrayal of the motherland during war.

Now, those who do not want military courts to try terrorists do not want to read the second part of Article 282 which states: Those who avoid compulsory military service are subject to the military code of justice. This paragraph is the one that legally and constitutionally allows us to try terrorists under the military jurisdiction, because terrorists also violate the compulsory military service law when they commit crimes.

Many Peruvians wrongfully think that the compulsory military service only affects men on active service, like those Peruvians who, after a selection are sent to serve in a military garrison for 1 or 2 years. This is only one of the ways in which one complies with the compulsory military service.

The compulsory Military Service Law states in Article 2: The compulsory military service is an unavoidable duty of all Peruvians who must participate in national defense by complying with their military obligations.

Article 5 adds: All men from 18 to 50 years of age and women from 18 to 45 years of age are obliged to comply with this law, thus this period of life is called military age. This means that all 18 to 50 year-old Peruvians are of military age, and we are obliged to comply with the compulsory military Service Law, in the reserve.

Therefore, one not only complies with the Military Service Law when one is assigned on active duty to a military garrison for 1 or 2 years, but one continues complying with this law by remaining in the reserve until 50 years of age.

Article 272 of the Military Service Law states: Men from 18 to 50 years of age and women between 18 and 45 years of age who are not on active military service all belong to the reserve, and they must comply with the obligations established by clause 4 of this law.

If the law states this, I then ask all Peruvians: aren't terrorists—who are part of the Armed Forces reserves and who take arms to attack the national police and Armed Forces—violating the obligatory Military Service Law? Isn't he who by violent means tries to destroy the constitutional system of which the Armed Forces are part, violating the Military Service Law?

Therefore, since Article 282 of the Constitution states that those who violate the compulsory Military Service Law can be tried by the military code of justice, then terrorists can be tried by military courts.

Thus the idea is that one law, one article, should establish that the crime of terrorism violates the Military Service Law, therefore enabling a quick and drastic punishment for terrorists.

It will therefore not be necessary to ammend the Constitution. A correct interpretation of the Constitution is all that will be needed. We must also remember that when the current Constitution was approved there was no serious terrorist problem. Besides, you must know that to ammend the Constitution we must wait nearly 2 years, and we have no time to waste.

Many Peruvians think that if military courts try terrorists they will be sentenced to death. This is false, it is not correct. The military courts will only rule sentences in keeping with the law, but these sentences will be applied firmly. This means that criminals will not go unpunished.

I ask all Peruvians and all institutions to support this proposal. Terrorists must not remain unpunished. This does not mean that we do not trust the civilian courts. This means that we must simply interpret the Constitution appropriately. Terrorists really do violate their condition as Armed Forces reservists when they take up arms against the government and the Armed Forces.

It is therefore our purpose to do things correctly. The Constitution must be interpreted in favor of Peru, since it cannot be interpreted in favor of the terrorists.

I am surprised that on the one side people criticize the little action taken against terrorists, while on the other they do not accept a concrete initiative like this one to punish them.

This is the moment to resume the discussion on this subject before the election campaigns make us forget that we are at war against terrorism. On the contrary, in order to safeguard the elections we must quickly make all the important decisions and approve strict punishments that will allow us to live in democracy, freedom, peace, and safety. Thank you.

Minister Asks for Support Against Terrorism

PY1608033889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla Campos has said that it is high time that the people start cooperating in the struggle against drug trafficking. He added that the responsibility for this struggle falls not only on the Armed Forces and the police, but on all Peruvians.

[Begin recording] [Mantilla] This message is meant to call the attention of politicians and the entire nation to what is happening and to the need to close ranks behind the police and the Armed Forces in order to end this scourge. All civilians and political leaders should understand that only with their full, resolute, unrestricted, and unconditional support for the police and the Armed Forces—to whom the Constitution has given the duty to defend the fatherland with their arms—will it be possible for us to eliminate this enemy.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, the eradication of terrorism is a task to be undertaken not only by the police but by all Peruvians, right?
[Mantilla] The entire nation should participate. Those who cannot struggle with arms—and the law establishes who can use arms—should support the men who do struggle with arms.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how is the antisubversive struggle going?
[Mantilla] It is a daily struggle being waged with a strong will, with great effort, and with all available means. All of us are participating in one way or the other. I would like to reiterate my call to political leaders. This cannot be just a lukewarm commitment. It should involve full support, even for the errors that we may make.

[Reporter] Have there been attacks in the emergency zones of late?
[Mantilla] No major recent attacks have been reported, except for the murder of peasants and leaders of small villages. No major confrontation has been reported.

[Reporter] Can we say that the situation is under control in metropolitan Lima?
[Mantilla] That is the result of the efforts of the police and the Armed Forces, who have at times supported us. That, however, does not mean that the danger is over. [end recording]

Economy Minister on Foreign Debt, Other Issues

PY1608154389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Economy Minister Cesar Vasquez Bazan reported to the Senate on the latest economic measures. He said

that the money collected from new taxes will not be used to pay the foreign debt, it will be used to pay the public domestic debt. He said that the fiscal situation is delicate but that the issue of tax collection and management is being handled very carefully.

Vazquez made a strong defense of the 1 percent tax on bank current accounts. The minister said this tax will not affect salaries.

Vazquez also said that it is not government policy to decree large fuel price increases. He pointed out that fuel prices increased by 295 percent on 7 September 1988, but only by 11.89 percent on 7 August of this year.

Vazquez emphasized that the country must not be left without foreign currency reserves. The minister added that the nation's reserves are increasing every month.

Defense Minister on Guarantees for Elections

PY1608040089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Defense Minister General Julio Velasquez Giacarini has stressed that the Armed Forces can guarantee the enforcement of the constitutional principle that elections should be clean. He added that the Armed Forces will see to it that the elections are held in freedom and with all guarantees.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Will there be guarantees for the elections in the emergency zones?
[Velasquez Giacarini] Yes. I can tell you that the Armed Forces can fulfill its constitutional duties. It is not my duty to say whether there are guarantees for the elections. I reiterate that the electoral process, its planning, and its management are responsibilities that the Constitution has placed on the National Electoral Court. We have a specific mission. We can fulfill our mission and, obviously, we can cooperate with the court.

[Reporter] Will there be elections in the emergency zones?
[Velasquez Giacarini] I reiterate that there will be elections all over Peru. That is what the law sets forth, and that is what is being planned. The Armed Forces can fulfill their duties. The other issues are being dealt with by the National Electoral Court. [End recording]

Mines Minister Discusses Miners Strike

PY1608025089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Energy and Mines Minister Mario Samane Boggio has said that he is confident that the 2-day old miners' strike will be solved. The minister said that 40 percent of the miners have joined the strike across the country.

[Begin recording] [Samane Boggio] We are in close contact with the Labor Minister, who is handling the problem, which involves labor matters and which falls within his jurisdiction. We are helping him and we are giving him all the information that we have. We have tried to promote a positive relationship between workers and businessmen. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Any other announcement on your sector?
[Samane Boggio] I am optimistic that the conflict will be over, that miners will return to work, and that we will recover what we lost during these days.

Venezuela

Perez Views Panama Events, Bush Remarks

PA1608201189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1857 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 16 Aug (DPA)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that this will be a decisive week for Panama's future and the deliberations of the OAS foreign ministers' consultative meeting on the troubled situation in that country.

Perez said that "this week will be fundamental in the search for formulas of understanding among Panamanians to achieve a democratic and peaceful transition."

"I reiterate my confidence in the ability and persistence of the negotiators," he noted.

The foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad-Tobago as well as OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares have begun a mediation effort to find a solution to the conflict between General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime and the opposition.

"If there is an appeal I can make this week—which is crucial, in my opinion—it is a fraternal call for the flexibility and understanding which all Panamanian sectors are dutybound to demonstrate."

In addition, Perez denied that U.S. President Bush has threatened to kidnap Noriega. "I do not believe President Bush has threatened to kidnap Noriega or do any such thing," the Venezuelan president said.

* Overcrowded Prison Conditions Analyzed

33480236b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 1 Jul 89 p A-4

[Report by Elio Gomez Grillo: "From Overcrowding to Life Imprisonment"]

[Text] The inmates in Venezuela's overcrowded jails live as blacks did in the bilges of slave ships. When does overcrowding become critical in a jail? When the number of inmates exceeds the prison's capacity by 30 percent. There is room in Venezuela's 32 jails for 12,204 inmates. By mid-1987, according to official COPRE [Presidential Commission for Reform of the State] figures, there were 28,057 inmates in Venezuela, giving an excess of 16,147 and an overcrowding rate of 132.3 percent. By February of this year the number of inmates stood at 28,643, an excess of 16,439 and, obviously, an even higher overcrowding rate. The latter numbers, with

insignificant differences, should, in general, be current. Let us look at the following examples for February 1989.

Penal Institutions

Catia Jail and Judicial Internment Camp: capacity, 600; number of inmates, 2,929; excess, 2,329

Valencia (Tocuyito) Penitentiary Center: capacity, 1,000; number of inmates, 3,627; excess, 2,627

General Penitentiary of Venezuela (San Juan de los Morros): capacity, 1,200; number of inmates, 3,258; excess, 2,058

National Jail of Maracaibo: capacity, 800; number of inmates, 2,725; excess, 1,925

Penitentiary Center of the West (Santa Ana, Tachira State): capacity, 800; number of inmates, 2,241; excess, 1,441

These are chilling numbers. The overcrowding is so bad that on my visits to the country's jails I have seen prisoners who have had to sleep standing up or squatting, and in some cases they take turns and make room for each other to sleep. At the National Jail of Ciudad Bolivar the inmates sleep in the corridors and even on the stone benches by the large windows along them. In that jail, in fact, I have seen something that I have seen in no other prison anywhere in the world: aerial berths, like Tarzan in the trees. The inmates use tubing, wire, or rope to fashion something like a cot, attach it to the bars of the cell 2 or 3 meters up, and lash themselves in to sleep. And the inmates who can sleep lying down do so on newspapers or the bare floor; about 20,000, I estimate, sleep this way, in other words, about two-thirds of Venezuela's inmates.

Of the 28,643 human beings who are behind bars in our country, 19,365 are awaiting trial; that is to say, they have not been convicted, and there is not sufficient cause to hold them because they are presumed innocent under the law. Only 8,417 have been convicted. The approximate proportion is 70 percent awaiting trial and just 30 percent convicted. And that is not all. If during Venezuela's 31 years of official democracy some 50,000 men and women have, by conservative estimates, passed through the country's jails and if each has awaited trial for an average of 2 years (a very conservative estimate once again), then the total delay in our democracy's criminal justice system is 100,000 years, an astronomical figure that is 50 times longer than the Christian era. Here lies the root of our prison overcrowding.

Several international congresses in this field have recommended administrative and even criminal penalties for judges who delay trials. At a recent congress in Argentina a Mexican criminologist proposed that for each year that a judge unjustifiably delays a criminal trial, he be sentenced to 1 day in jail. I immediately did some arithmetic with the 100,000 years that the judges under Venezuela's democracy owe to their prisoners and I shuddered with fear when I realized how many colleagues, including some of my professors, fellow students, former students, and friends who are serving as criminal court judges in Venezuela, would have to spend the rest of their lives in prison under this arrangement.

* Internal Conflict in AD Over Ideology

33480236d Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 23 Jun 89 p D-16

[Report by Alfredo Alvarez: "Greater Internal Democracy and Freedom To Dissent Called for in AD"]

[Text] The winds of change that are suddenly blowing through the National Executive Committee (CEN) of Democratic Action (AD) have in no way arisen from an unexpected reformist appeal to meet the demands of modernization that vast segments of our civilian society are voicing to political parties and that are embodied in the proposals that COPRE [Presidential Commission for Reform of the State] has been formulating.

Such decisions are more in tune with the silent struggle that two well-defined factions in AD have been waging. One of them feels that on the Betancur foundation (the only one) they have built a political structure that every 5 years speaks for the interests of the Venezuelan people and requires no changes whatsoever.

The other faction aims to reconcile the principles of a genuine political democracy with the expectations of real social democracy. There are AD members who believe that they can build a party in which each individual will be judged on his personal qualifications in seeking a position that he feels entitled to hold. These opposing views take on varying nuances whenever their proponents are called upon to argue them.

There are gains and setbacks for both sides. At times the unshakably orthodox faction seems to be repeating the Red Army's march on Tiananmen Square, and other times the winds of political change represent winning campaigns for those in positions of leadership. In one way or another the president of the Republic himself is encouraging the latter group, inasmuch as it will be easier for him to govern a country excited about political reforms.

This outbreak of "individual dissent" is fueled by the differences of opinion that are expressed every day among AD leaders. Lest this remark be regarded as pure speculation, we will quote the most substantive portions of a letter that was sent to the party's president and secretary general and that demands a discussion of matters relating to "internal democracy, ideology, debate on the morality issue, and political activity."

The letter was sent on 9 June. Enough time has passed so that one can conclude that the signatures of 22 deputies, led by Arnoldo Jose Gabaldon, Douglas Jatem, Pedro Tabata, Liliam Arvelo, Luis Raul Matos Azocar, Jose

Angel Agreda, and a representative group of AD notables, were sufficient reason to open the door to debate on the modernization of AD.

There are leaders like Matos Azocar who are now more optimistic about possible changes. In his opinion, a decision of this nature could be postponed but never shelved indefinitely. Other leaders, who for now prefer the discrete charm of anonymity, indicate that the party's most conservative leaders have simply realized at last that if they were not the ones who took charge of the reforms, others would play an active role in this process. They opted for the former.

The Big Dilemma

In their document the AD leaders indicate that "this is no longer a simple conceptual problem; rather, it is the only way to salvage the representativeness and credibility of the political leadership." They speak out strongly against the integration problems that they have faced in building a party that is more consonant with the demands of Venezuelan civilian society, blaming this on "certain practices that have been observed in the conduct of our internal activities, especially some having to do with the possibility of granting benefits and privileges to certain members of the party, mainly from the administration...."

In their document they therefore demand that the party leadership attach priority to the discussion of the reforms of the political parties that is currently under way in the Congress of the Republic. At one point the document notes that "passage of this law would not only have an effect on the choice of truly legitimate authorities but would also make the financing of political campaigns more transparent both inside and outside the political parties."

Their demand stems from the uneasiness that has prevailed in Democratic Action in the wake of the financial scandals in which some of its leaders have been implicated and from a forthright rejection of the close, almost legitimized ties between businessmen and leaders who aspire to "go far."

AD Activists

They also address the issue of ideology, voicing their conviction that AD members have managed to build a great party of the masses "without the ideological training that would enable them to make enthusiastic commitments to our organization, inasmuch as they are dominated by pragmatic opportunism and seek out cushy jobs once we are in power."

In keeping with this judgment about the inadequate knowledge of theory among party activists and a good many of its leaders, the signatories of the document complain that AD has become "a party without feasible projects, guided only by secret deals and ongoing negotiations...which prevents it from undertaking the changes that Venezuelan society is demanding and makes it easy prey for the forces of corruption."

They therefore call for an Ideological Congress that through wide-ranging debate will stimulate AD activists at large and put the party in tune with the programs of change that the administration itself seeks to implement. The members of AD have obviously realized that their major disagreements with the cabinet and with the decisions of Carlos Andres Perez' administration stem not from differences in training, much less from the free-thinking character of the cabinet ministers, but rather from their inability to understand what these implementers of administration policy are proposing to the country.

It is also clear that the differences between those who are pushing for a change in party structures and those who in one way or another have opposed them will be settled in the arena of ideological debate, in which the winner will be not those who are best able to "form cliques" but rather those who best reflect the country's views and understand its deepest anxieties. This will undoubtedly be another kind of battle, perhaps one that has never before been seen among AD members, who are known for their effective handling of party machinery but also for their lack of creativity.

The Congressional Bloc

The head of the AD congressional bloc, Carlos Canache Mata, with his ability and his familiarity with AD idiosyncrasies, has been able to cope with the internal conflicts involved in managing a congressional bloc as important as AD's. The opposition that his particular way of running this group of congressmen has created is no secret; among other things, they complain of not having regulations to govern their activities. (The truth is that Canache himself has drafted regulations, which are now ready and will be discussed this very week.)

AD deputies thus want to perform the party's congressional political activities in better form and, in this regard, they propose that "the bloc vote on those issues that it deems of far-reaching importance and send to the National Executive Committee the resolutions that are passed by a majority." In more categorical language, the AD congressmen do not want to keep passing resolutions that the top echelon has cooked up without considering their implications. They do not want to be "led by the nose" in voting anymore.

Another of their demands is that the full CEN take up all issues under discussion and that on issues on which it disagrees with the bloc they discuss the causes and effects of a contrary decision. Not only do they want to be able to dissent; they want to be free to do so. As for the so-called "tube vote," the legislators reject it and demand that on the occasions that so require, a secret ballot be taken in Congress.

The so-called internal currents would lose much of their strength in this case. They say that they base their

demand on the procedure that has been ordered in the CEN when it votes on "especially delicate" issues. This "guarantees its members freedom of judgment."

The vote issue is of particular importance to these leaders when they must vote on investigations into or charges of administrative corruption involving members of AD.

They say that "they are pleased by the decision not to take political stands on investigations into members of our organization in the Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] affair and to let each party legislator or independent vote on the recommendations in accordance with his conscience."

The AD leaders who signed the letter see it as more than just an opportunity to vent their repressed anxiety; they also hope that it will make possible a discussion that will eventually lead to actions that will enhance the credibility of the democratic system.

*** Recadi Suspects Barred From Leaving Country**
33480246b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
15 Jul 89 p D-29

[Text] Felix Arroyo, director general of the Venezuelan Immigration Service [DIEX], has said: "No person prohibited from leaving the country in connection with the Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] case or because of any other, similar matter, will be permitted to go abroad through Maiquetia International Airport."

He said that, thanks to the installation of 17 computer terminals at that international airport departure point, agents of the Venezuelan Immigration Service will be able quickly to detect judicial measures taken against citizens in that connection.

He stated that his office has received 103 orders related to the Recadi case, prohibiting departure from the country of certain individuals. These orders "do not necessarily involve 103 people, because there are individuals against whom more than one order is outstanding."

He added that on a nationwide basis the DIEX has recorded more than 6,000 orders of this kind handed down for various reasons.

He announced that by August the computerized system will be fully operational, while at the same time it will be synchronized with the master list in the central office of the DIEX, which will be updated on a daily basis.

He added: "At this time a mechanized system is being tested to replace the old system of the 'Black Book.'"

The chief of the DIEX said that the central register of this system is constantly updated in terms of the orders issued by the various courts of the country. It provides maximum assurance that the objective sought will be achieved because it also has alternative methods of verification to deal with any abnormality which can be considered.

In this connection he spoke of microfiches which operate on 110 volt current, each of which contains 230 pages of information on file. Each page in turn holds in condensed form up to 52 prohibition orders on the entry and departure of persons.

He stated that among the most immediate steps under consideration to be taken is the computerized printing of passports which will use optical characters—like credit cards—to be read automatically by computer terminals.

Regarding facilitating the processing of identity cards, Arroyo declared that the registration of fingerprints in mechanized and not in manual form, as was done up to now, is well advanced.

He concluded: "At the national level we are making changes and holding hearings of an administrative type which cover situations affecting staff and personnel."

*** Armed Forces Committed to Civilian Government**
33480236c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
27 Jun 89 p D-14

[Report by Jesus Eduardo Brando: "Penaloza Zambrano: The Army Serves Liberty and Democracy"]

[Text] "Our weapons are and always will be in service to liberty, to a democratic way of life whose supreme value is respect for human dignity and for the sovereign will of the people, freely expressed through their vote," emphasized Major General Carlos Julio Penaloza Zambrano in taking over as commander in chief of the army.

The new military commander began his remarks by acknowledging that he was overwhelmed by emotion, sincere humility, and a deep-seated sense of duty on this momentous occasion. "Nevertheless, the legitimate satisfaction that I feel today is not as great as the realization of the enormous responsibility and grave commitment to the Republic that I am now assuming."

He expressed his gratitude for the support that he has received throughout his career from his wife Elsa, his children, his comrades in arms, his superiors and subordinates, and in particular from President Carlos Andres Perez, "because of the trust that he has placed in me and the honor that he has done me during these trying times for the nation; he can rest absolutely assured of my loyalty and that I will not disappoint him."

He also had words of gratitude for his predecessor, Jose Maria Troconis Peraza. He said of him that he has won the esteem and respect of the army and that his noteworthy performance as commander of the branch led to accomplishments that had a significant impact on the institution's progress. The new commander asserted that

he was committed to these accomplishments and would carry them forward in a continuation of his predecessor's efforts.

A Democratic Identity

He called attention to the panorama beyond our borders. As we can see on all continents and even in nations that have known only dictatorships and totalitarian regimes, love of liberty is spontaneously welling up like a gushing fountain.

"Lives are sacrificed for liberty. Democracy and dignity are still being fought for in many places. We Venezuelans are lucky to have a political system based on democratic values. We must strengthen it, and we can do so, because democracy gives us a real possibility of improving the course of events without resorting to violence and oppression.

"To be sure," Commander Penaloza indicated, "our country is going through a period of readjustment and accommodation, which demands of us all the capacity to adapt and the patriotic spirit to see this period through. Under these circumstances it is absurd and incomprehensible that certain people are losing sight of the supreme meaning of liberty and democracy and are trying to downplay the importance of this historic achievement that we Venezuelans have secured by establishing in our land a system of coexistence that, in spite of its flaws and imperfections, is based on respect for human rights and on the quest for collective progress and well-being in a framework of civil liberties."

Subordination to Civilian Government

He underscored that the military is made up of men and women who value liberty highly, who want to live in liberty, and who identify deeply with the democratic way of life, adding that "subordination to the civilian government that is legitimately established through the vote of the people and respect for the constitution and laws of the Republic are the fundamental pillars of our conduct."

"Bolivar, the father of our country, quoting Homer, always realized that 'when man loses his freedom, he loses half his spirit.' This thought has always touched me, because I believe that if a country loses its freedom, it will lose not only its spirit but also the sense of its historic destiny and will regress to primitive stages."

Apolitical and Not Deliberative

Penaloza Zambrano also reaffirmed that in these trying times it bears repeating that the army proceeds in accordance with the constitutional provision that defines it as an apolitical, nondeliberative institution.

"The Armed Forces are not, do not wish to be, and cannot be above the law, nor are they partial to any political group. On the contrary, our primary duty is to assure the rule of law and to prevent illegal acts.

"Like every human institution," he said, "our actions will inevitably be marked by successes and failures, by progress and stalls, which must be discussed and investigated by the government and cannot avoid being debated in the public arena. Therefore, I feel that the criticisms that are voiced about us will not always be unjust and will help to improve our performance. There is no reason why individual military officers, no matter what their rank, should be immune from public scrutiny."

Adherence to Ethics "The path to be followed by the army will be marked by adherence to the ethical standards that lend meaning to our institutional actions and that constitute the most hallowed legacy of our founding fathers.

"In other words," he asserted, "our duty as soldiers is to emphasize the role of morality in our personal conduct and in our professional performance. I am referring in this instance to a specific morality, demonstrated by example, not to a technical morality based on the proclamation of ideal conduct that is immediately disregarded in favor of arbitrary or corrupt behavior."

* La Riva on Menem's Criticism of Judiciary

33480246d Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Jul 89 p D-6

[Article by Victor Manuel Reinoso: "Judge La Riva: Argentine President Menem Has Offended the Judicial Branch of the Venezuelan Government"]

[Text] Judge Luis Guillermo La Riva Lopez, of the 37th Penal and Constitutional Safeguards Court, on 20 July called for respect for "the sovereignty of Venezuela and its judicial branch." He was replying to statements by Argentine President Carlos Menem, which he called "false." He was commenting on the situation of Nestor Mario Rapanelli, Argentine minister of economy, against whom Judge La Riva issued an order of arrest, in addition to orders of detention against seven executives of Venezuelan mills for fraudulent misuse of public funds and smuggling wheat. The wheat reportedly was imported at an excessive price, with dollars obtained at a preferential rate of exchange authorized by Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office].

La Riva was interviewed by reporters when he went to the offices where the Recadi files are located.

When La Riva was told that President Menem had called him a liar, he said: "In fact I have not heard of that statement. However, I have read some very harsh comments by President Menem against actions by the Venezuelan judiciary.

"In the first place, I wish to repeat our respect for Argentine sovereignty. At the same time we demand respect for Venezuelan sovereignty. We in Venezuela, and I believe that the same thing also applies in Argentina, have a juridical and political system which is more or less similar. We have a strict separation of powers,

with autonomy for each of the branches and respect and balance between them. At least constitutionally, the institutions are shaped in that way."

He continued: "Therefore, it is surprising to me that President Menem should have made comments which cannot be considered as other than insolent and which, furthermore, are unacceptable because they offend not only the sovereignty of Venezuela but also the honor of the judicial branch of the Venezuelan government."

The judge was told by a reporter: "President Menem has said that it is a question of your political views against Argentina."

The judge replied: "For that very reason he is offending Venezuelan national sovereignty and the judicial branch of our government. I have not offended anyone. I have never used harsh language against Argentina. On the contrary, I have expressed to the Argentine media who have interviewed me that I very much regret the political crisis which may have resulted from my decision, which was made long before President Menem even won the elections in Argentina. I have many friends among the lawyers in Argentina because of my professional international activities during which we have met. I have asked for respect for the judicial branch of our government in the most humble terms. However, in the most energetic way I demand that the decisions of the judicial branch be observed and respected."

The judge was asked: "Are you not afraid that the problem will get worse and that in this way relations between Argentina and Venezuela will be damaged?"

He replied: "I see no reason why relations should be damaged. No member of the judicial branch, nor I in particular, have offended the Republic of Argentina, which we love and respect very much, not only in connection with the conflict in the Malvinas Islands but also because we are united by many historical and ethnic connections."

A reporter asked: "Do you not believe that what President Menem is trying to do is specifically to pressure the judicial branch of the Venezuelan Government at the highest level to revoke the order of arrest against its minister of economy?"

The judge replied: "Well, look here, I am not responsible for the mistakes made by President Menem. He is responsible for them. I am responsible for my actions as a judge. Let him be responsible for his actions as president of the Republic of Argentina. And I repeat once again my respect, admiration, and profound affection for Argentine sovereignty and gentility. However, as a Venezuelan and as a member of the judicial branch of the government I do not accept that anyone else, even the president of Argentina, has the right to interfere in our internal affairs and injure our sacred sovereignty."

*** Summons of Ibanez, Iturbe Deemed Constitutional**
81480886 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
2 Jun 89 p D-18

[Report by Ada Urribarri: "Interpellation of Blanca Ibanez in Keeping With Regulations"]

[Text] "The interpellation of Blanca Ibanez Pina is legal and supported by the regulations that govern Congress, and therefore under Article 160 of the National Constitution she must appear before the Special Commission that is investigating Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office]."

This is the finding of the judicial study conducted by the office of Jatar Alonso, Fernandez Concheso and Associates at the request of Douglas Dager, the Social Christian deputy who chairs the Comptrollership Commission. The purposes of the study were to determine accurately and in legal fashion "the validity of the vote to interpellate a former official when the issue in question was not expressly included as an item on the meeting's agenda" and to counter the response that the congressional bloc of Democratic Action (AD), which is represented on the commission by Henry Ramos Allup, is preparing and will reportedly issue next Wednesday.

Braulio Jatar Alonso, the legal adviser and personal attorney of the chairman of the Comptrollership Commission, was asked about the penalties. He stated: "The National Constitution says that penalties must be imposed on those who are summoned, whether by invitation or interpellation, during a congressional investigation and who fail to appear, though the provision has never been regulated."

"It says that appropriate penalties are to be established by law, but no law has ever been passed in this regard."

The Report

The 17-page ruling explains each and every one of the articles and provisions that were analyzed, as well as the investigations conducted by the deputies present at the commission meeting on 24 May, when the former private secretary of the presidency was called on to appear after documents were sent to the investigating commission and remitted to the appropriate court.

The ruling has to do with Deputy Ramos Allup's refusal, after the session on 24 May 1989, to sign the minutes, which thus became invalid.

The report argues that discussion and voting are the institutions of congressional debate and that both took place during the session; this can be gathered from the speeches that the deputies made there in setting forth their views on the interpellation of Blanca Ibanez Pina.

Another of Ramos Allup's objections is that the item having to do with the letters had not been included and was not under consideration and, therefore, could not be discussed.

According to the report, the issue of the letters that Carlos Tablante sent to the commission and the interpellation of the finance minister was under consideration. The interpellation of the former presidential official was then put to a vote.

[EL NACIONAL] Are the minutes invalid because they were not signed by Ramos Allup?

[Braulio Jatar Alonso] The minutes of meetings are documents that in law are called Ad Probationem; they serve as evidence but are not essential for the act to be valid.

If Democratic Action refuses to sign the minutes, this does not detract from the validity of the decision that the body has already made, in this case after the item was debated, put to a vote, and passed by a majority of the deputies present.

[EL NACIONAL] Is it also being alleged that the debate was sidetracked at the session that day?

[Braulio Jatar Alonso] In that event any deputy can call for a vote on the sidetracking by the person directing the debate. At that session no deputy called for a vote on this point, on the inappropriate manner in which it was being conducted, on its not being on the agenda, or on the failure to comply with statutory formalities. Logically, the time limit is already up for any challenge that anyone wants to make now. [end]

Furthermore, of the conclusions in the ruling the following bears emphasizing: "It is our judgment that at the meeting on Wednesday 24 May 1989 the essential principles of parliamentary law were observed, as is evidenced by the transcription of the discussion and vote by its members. This fact cannot be undone by arguments about strictly statutory formalities, arguments, moreover, that have been put forth after the time limit established in the articles indicated in this ruling.

"The vote, as we have said, reflects the will of the commission, which cannot be distorted by the claim that formalities were not observed, a claim that was not made at the time and that, if it were made, would vitiate the essence of parliament, inasmuch as the minutes that contain the results of the meeting are Ad Probationem documents, as we have indicated, not under any circumstances Ad Solemnitatem documents, as is being alleged.

"Since the appropriate objection was not raised within the legal time limit and subsequently voted on, the manner in which Deputy Douglas Dager, as chairman, conducted the debate in the special Recadi commission on 24 May 1989 is deemed legal and legitimate; he proceeded in accordance with his legal powers under the regulations, as evidenced by the majority vote that the motion that is the object of this ruling received.

"By virtue of the above, we rule that Deputy Gonzalo Perez Hernandez' motion to interpellate Blanca Ibanez Pina is legal and supported by the regulations that govern Congress. Therefore, under Article 160 of the National Constitution, Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco and Blanca Ibanez Pina must appear before the Special Commission investigating Recadi, under penalty of incurring the sanctions provided for in the law."

* Eglee Iturbe Further Implicated

33480236a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Jun 89 p D-1

[Report by Agustin Beroes: "Eglee Iturbe Was Negligent as Deputy Finance Minister"]

[Text] A second document that Tablante has submitted for the consideration of the Superior Safeguard Court says that Hector Hurtado, the former finance minister, and Eglee Iturbe, the former director general of the ministry and the current minister, acted negligently because they knew in advance of charges against phantom companies that obtained dollars at the preferential rate.

"On 21 March 1988 the Federation of Associations of Distributors of Automobiles and Machinery of Venezuela sent a letter to the minister of finance, Hector Hurtado, expressing to him its concern that foreign exchange at the preferential rate had been granted for the purchase of 20 harvesters to an unknown company that was not affiliated with any chamber and that did not have the necessary distribution network. It was referring, as has been shown, to the Maquinarias Europa company.

"On 29 August 1988 the federation in question wrote to Eglee Iturbe, the director general of finance, to inform her of the irregularities that existed in allocating foreign exchange for the importation of farm equipment to Maquinarias Europa, Maquinarias Zelandia, and Maquinarias Victoria, these being companies that were not known on the market, that were not affiliated with any trade or business organization....These import approvals were for 181 harvesting machines in all.

"On 13 September 1988 the same federation asked Eglee Iturbe to grant it a hearing 'with the appropriate urgency' to address the matter of the allocation of foreign exchange to unknown companies.

"These companies belong to Messrs Ho Wing and Ho Fuk Shum, who are Chinese-born naturalized Venezuelans and for whom the 37th Lower Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for utilizing public funds.

"On 1 February 1989 the National Chamber of Rubber Distributors wrote to Iturbe, putting before her the case of the Las 4 Dimensiones, Distribuidora Nueva Zelandia, Distribuidora Truman, and Distribuidora la Nueva Tecnologia firms, which supposedly engaged in irregularities in applying for foreign exchange, inasmuch as the amounts awarded to these new and unknown companies far exceeded those granted to domestic firms affiliated with the chamber in question. The chamber also mentioned that based on the RIF [expansion unknown] numbers of these firms it could be assumed that all of

them belonged to one and the same individual and that they had been set up to thus obtain larger amounts of preferential-rate dollars.

"The aforementioned companies belong to Ho Wing and Ho Fuk Shum.

"It is the unavoidable duty of every public official to see to it that public funds are properly managed. It was up to the Finance Ministry, through its officials, to see to it that the foreign exchange that they assigned was utilized properly. Administrative mechanisms were established for this purpose, enabling the ministry to conduct any sort of investigation into the granting and use of preferential-rate foreign exchange and, by making use of a discretionary power, enabling the ministry to order the Central Bank of Venezuela not to disburse the foreign exchange that had been approved in the event that it was conducting any sort of investigation into an individual or company that had applied for preferential-rate dollars.

"As we can see, both Hurtado and Iturbe knew in advance of the charges that were being made, none of which was apparently given consideration, inasmuch as they were repeated."

In conclusion, Tablante argues for his request as follows: "By not taking under consideration the charges that had been made and by not withholding the foreign exchange that had been approved, Hurtado and Iturbe committed the crime described in Article 59 of the Safeguard Law. Thus, I request that the corresponding preliminary proceedings be conducted against the two former officials in order to determine their criminal liability in this case."

*** Domestic Development of Hydrocarbons Recommended**
33480247a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
13 Jul 89 p D-7

[Article by Cayetano Ramirez: "Promoting Domestic Hydrocarbon Industry"]

[Text] In a series of documents the Petroleum Chamber is urging the government and PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] to make the appropriate decisions to promote the intensive development of the domestic hydrocarbon industry.

The chamber is made up for the most part of companies supplying goods and services to the petroleum and petrochemical industries. It includes some firms which process hydrocarbons and which are considered pioneers in the manufacture of oils and other specialties made from petroleum refining derivatives.

In the principal document delivered to the president and to the minister of energy and mines the chamber points out that the industrialization program carried on up to now in Venezuela through the petroleum refineries has been conventional and basic in scope. For this reason the chamber considers that the time has come to move forward toward the secondary and tertiary stages of processing, which generate greater added value to products obtained from petroleum. This kind of development would not only result in substituting for imports which amount annually to $1.2 billion but would generate additional foreign exchange from exports, in addition to adding jobs and employment domestically.

The subsequent processing of refinery flows produces hundreds of petrochemical products and specialty items which are used to produce a diversified range of consumption goods. This kind of processing is a result of intensive industrialization. With very few exceptions we have not gone into this type of industrialization in our country, and we import annually about $1.2 billion worth of petroleum by-products, according to official statistics. Assuming that we can produce these items on a competitive basis, it is believed that there is an important market for their export.

To ensure a better understanding of this proposal, it should be stated that refinery by-products include refinery gases, naphtha, kerosene, distillates, and residuals which contain various hydrocarbons and components which would be the raw materials for the industry producing specialty products.

The document continues: "In general the production of specialty products uses quantities of hydrocarbons, incorporates a high domestic added value, generates a large number of jobs, and requires a moderate amount of investment.

"These characteristics make this activity particularly appropriate for private investment, which has been recognized by other countries, where it is a common practice to develop industrial parks in the vicinity of refineries to facilitate activity by the private sector in the processing of petroleum flows.

"By promoting the participation of the private sector in hydrocarbon industrialization activity use will be made of the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities of this sector. It would reduce commitments by the state, and these resources can be directed toward other objectives."

The document mentions a series of conditions which must be met to ensure the participation of the private sector in the domestic development of hydrocarbons in the near future. This process is also called the "internationalization" of the hydrocarbon industry. These conditions are:

- Bringing legislation up to date, especially laws affecting petroleum nationalization, so that the body of laws would clearly guarantee the role of the private sector in petroleum activity.
- Defining in a precise way the processing areas reserved to the state and those open to the private sector.
- Guaranteeing supplies of raw material and delivery prices.
- Defining the way in which the state petroleum

industry would participate in the promotion of private industrial processing units.
- Defining acceptable levels and areas of participation by foreign companies.

The petroleum chamber, whose president is Miguel Bocco, an industrialist, has taken this action to present to the government the urgent need for promoting the intensive industrialization of petroleum in Venezuela. The chamber also pointed out in this connection that it is important that institutional business organizations should be represented in preparing plans for this purpose.

In specialized circles concerned with the petroleum industry the position of the petroleum chamber on the importance and urgency of establishing a specialty industry in Venezuela using refinery by-products is considered the right one. It is also considered proper to set up the legal foundations and guarantees covering the supply of raw material and other favorable conditions. However, it has been observed that it is difficult for PDVSA to agree to deliver raw materials which it could export at a price below the market level, transferring money which it needs to private businessmen. This is an important question to be clarified in the domestic petroleum industry.

* Bank Advisory Committee Proposes Counteroffer

33480247c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
21 Jul 89 p D-1

[Article by Amado Fuguet V.: "Debt Reduction Plan Rejected"]

[Text] Although the IMF, the World Bank, and Nicholas Brady, secretary of the United States Treasury, consider that Venezuela's foreign debt qualifies for the debt reduction program, the Bank Advisory Committee did not accept as a whole the proposals made by the official Venezuelan mission headed by Miguel Rodriguez, minister of coordination and planning, and Pedro Tinoco, president of the Central Bank of Venezuela.

The two officials stated, on their return from New York: "The financial bodies and the government of the United States found it appropriate to make an immediate presentation to the international banking community to begin negotiations."

According to a statement issued by the Central Bank of Venezuela, the official Venezuelan mission met first in Washington with representatives of the IMF, the World Bank, the Department of the Treasury, and the Federal Reserve Bank to present to them our proposal for reduction in the debt service requirement. The statement continued: "Both the International Monetary Fund, as well as the World Bank and the secretary of the Treasury found that Venezuela qualifies for the debt reduction program and found it appropriate to make an immediate presentation to the international banking community to begin negotiations."

Meeting with the Banking Advisory Committee

When it met in New York with the Banking Advisory Committee, the Venezuelan mission presented the following:

(a) An economic report fully justifying the need to obtain a significant reduction in the service of its external debt to promote the future development of Venezuela.

(b) The complete proposal for a reduction in debt service payments through the following options:

(1) A reduction of 50 percent of the principal of the debt.

(2) A reduction of 50 percent in the interest on the debt.

(3) Repayment of the debt at no more than 40 percent of its nominal value up to a total investment of $800 million.

(4) Capitalization of the 1989 interest up to $550 million (for the second quarter of 1989) and a recalculation of future interest on an annual basis.

(5) Entry into effect of the new agreements as of 1 July 1989.

(6) In case of the reduction of the principal of the debt by 50 percent, a guarantee of the principal through a "Zero Coupon" bond and a guarantee of payment of 4 years of interest. In case of a reduction in the payment of interest, a guarantee of payment of only 4 years of interest.

Reaction by the Banking Community

As the Central Bank of Venezuela statement explained, the reaction of the Banking Advisory Committee was to make a counter proposal, offering new loans to cover the deficit in the 1989 Venezuelan balance of payments. The Central Bank statement commented: "We do not consider that this proposal suits Venezuelan interests, even when added to certain facilities to reduce debt service payments. The banking community was prepared to continue the conversations and seek a constructive frame of reference for the negotiations."

A negotiating team was established, made up of Edgar Leal (commissioner of the president of Venezuela and negotiator on the debt), Carlos Hernandez Delfino (director general of public finance of Venezuela), Sonia Perez Rodriguez (executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank), Gustavo Garcia (adviser to the executive director of the IMF), and Carlos Starke (assistant to the executive director of the World Bank). They will continue the conversations and negotiations along the lines previously indicated.

The Central Bank of Venezuela statement concluded: "These negotiations are complex, both because of the large number of creditor banks involved as well as the substantial interests under discussion. We will discuss these matters firmly for as long as necessary."

*** Puerto Rico Remains Second Largest Oil Market**
33480247d Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
17 Jul 89 p D-15

[Article by Florencia Tovar R.]

[Text] On 17 July an agreement will be signed at Miraflores Palace under which Venezuela will sell 18,000 barrels of heavy fuel per day worth $120 million to government-owned electricity generating plants in Puerto Rico.

The ceremony will be held in the presence of Rafael Hernandez Colon, governor of Puerto Rico, who arrived in Venezuela on 16 July, and President Carlos Andres Perez, as well as the president of Corpoven, a Venezuelan state-owned company, who will sign the agreement.

Leonardo Montiel Ortega, who took part in the negotiations which lasted for 5 years, indicated that this agreement is the first step toward giving concrete form to the idea of a complementary economic relationship between the two countries.

Venezuela's object is to try to supply all of the fuel consumed by the electricity-generating plants in Puerto Rico, which would amount to about $500 million. Then the next step would be the construction of a refinery in Puerto Rico to process Venezuelan crude oil and to supply all of the fuel which Puerto Rico requires. Furthermore, this refinery could distribute refined products elsewhere in the Caribbean area. Montiel Ortega said: "That refinery could belong to Puerto Rico or be a joint venture or could be managed by PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.].

Excluding Curacao and Germany (where there are Venezuelan refineries), the second largest market for Venezuelan petroleum is Puerto Rico, which consumes 70,000 barrels of petroleum per day, valued at about $1.2 billion per year.

A Major Deal

Montiel Ortega explained that this agreement is of importance for Venezuela because it opens the gates of Puerto Rico, not only for the sale of its petroleum but also for the export of other manufactured products. Puerto Rican imports amount to about $10 billion annually.

For Puerto Rico this agreement will mean security in the supply of fuel, the possibility of lowering its electric rates, and the beginning of a complementary economic relationship.

The petroleum involved in this agreement will not enter Puerto Rico under the San Jose Agreement, in accordance with which the countries concerned receive a 20 percent discount on the price. Rather, the petroleum will be sold at international prices.

It is important to point out that the negotiations between the two countries lasted for 5 years because intermediary firms had displaced Venezuela in that important market, and it was necessary to change Puerto Rican laws which kept us out.

Celestino Armas and Napoleon Lista, presently the minister and deputy minister of energy and mines, respectively, also participated in the conversations to reach the "greatest agreement which Venezuela has entered into, apart from the internationalization of the petroleum market."

On 17 July the minister and deputy minister should also be present at Miraflores Palace for the signature of this agreement on the supply of fuel. Later, there will be a press conference where Rafael Hernandez Colon, the governor of Puerto Rico, will express his points of view.

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